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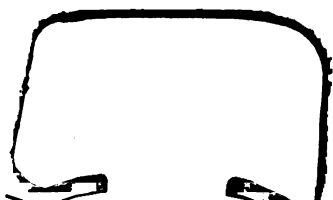
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THE
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT
OF
SCOTLAND.



THE
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT
OF
SCOTLAND.

DRAWN UP FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS
OF THE
MINISTERS

OF THE
DIFFERENT PARISHES.

BY SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, BART.

VOLUME EIGHTH.

"Ad consilium de republica dandum, caput est nosse rempublicam."

CICERO, de Orat. lib. ii.

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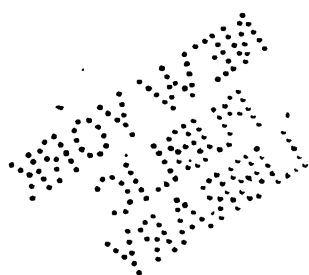
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SEWELL, LONDON; DUNLOP AND WILSON, GLASGOW;

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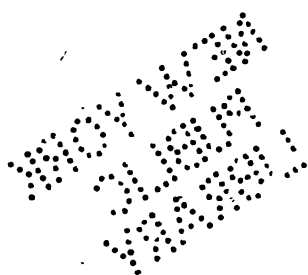




CONTENTS.

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|---------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------|-------|------|
| 1 | Dornoch, - - - | 2,780 | 2,541 | - - | 239 | 1 |
| 2 | Eckford, - - - | 1,083 | 952 | - - | 131 | 26 |
| 3 | Gigha and Cara, - - - | 514 | 614 | 100 | - - | 37 |
| 4 | Ladykirk, - - - | 386 | 500 | 104 | - - | 71 |
| 5 | Douglas, - - - | 2,009 | 1,715 | - - | 294 | 76 |
| 6 | Tweedsmuir, - - - | 397 | 227 | - - | 170 | 86 |
| 7 | Kilmartin, - - - | 1,150 | 1,537 | 387 | - - | 90 |
| 8 | Auchtertonl, - - - | 389 | 314 | - - | 55 | 110 |
| 9 | Carlisle, - - - | 1,459 | 1,730 | 271 | - - | 120 |
| 10 | Canisbay, - - - | 1,481 | 1,950 | 469 | - - | 142 |
| 11 | Newburgh, - - - | 1,347 | 1,664 | 317 | - - | 170 |
| 12 | Dundee, - - - | 12,477 | 23,500 | 11,023 | - - | 192 |
| 13 | Cromdale, - - - | 3,063 | 3,000 | - - | 63 | 251 |
| 14 | Tough, - - - | 570 | 560 | - - | 10 | 261 |
| 15 | Stirling, - - - | 3,951 | 4,698 | 747 | - - | 271 |
| 16 | Kelton, - - - | 811 | 1,600 | 789 | - - | 297 |
| 17 | Applegarth, - - - | 897 | 741 | - - | 156 | 310 |
| 18 | Beith, - - - | 2,064 | 2,872 | 808 | - - | 314 |
| 19 | Guthrie, - - - | 584 | 571 | - - | 13 | 329 |
| 20 | Glenorchy and Inishail, - - - | 1,654 | 1,659 | 15 | - - | 335 |
| 21 | Criech, - - - | 1,705 | 1,730 | 25 | - - | 362 |
| 22 | Duffus, - - - | 1,679 | 1,500 | - - | 179 | 384 |
| 23 | Dumbarny, - - - | 764 | 1,250 | 486 | - - | 401 |
| 24 | Kilmalie, - - - | 3,093 | 4,922 | 938 | - - | 407 |
| 25 | Torryburn, - - - | 1,635 | 1,600 | - - | 35 | 448 |
| 26 | Ferry-Port-on-Craig, - - - | 621 | 873 | 252 | - - | 456 |
| 27 | Logie, - - - | 413 | 425 | 12 | - - | 470 |
| 28 | Cadder, - - - | 2,396 | 1,767 | - - | 629 | 474 |
| 29 | Muthil, - - - | 2,902 | 2,948 | 46 | - - | 485 |
| 30 | Moy and Dalarsie, - - - | 1,693 | 1,813 | 120 | - - | 499 |
| 31 | Lesly, - - - | 319 | 392 | 73 | - - | 511 |
| 32 | Hawick, - - - | 2,713 | 2,928 | 215 | - - | 521 |
| 33 | Clatt, - - - | 559 | 425 | - - | 134 | 535 |
| 34 | Drymen, - - - | 2,789 | 1,607 | - - | 1,182 | 546 |
| 35 | Edenkeillie, - - - | 1,443 | 1,800 | 357 | - - | 553 |
| 36 | Monivaird and Strowan, - - - | 1,460 | 1,025 | - - | 435 | 567 |
| 37 | Kilbride, in Arran, - - - | 1,369 | 2,545 | 1,176 | - - | 578 |
| 38 | Moonsie, - - - | 249 | 171 | - - | 78 | 583 |
| 39 | Symington, - - - | 264 | 307 | 43 | - - | 585 |
| 40 | Alloa, - - - | 5,816 | 4,802 | - - | 1,014 | 592 |
| | | 72,948 | 87,006 | 18,875 | 4,817 | |
| Population in 1755, | | - | 72,948 | 4,817 | | |
| Increase, | | - | 14,058 | 14,058 | | |

* Doubts are entertained how far the parish of Alloa contained so great a number, as 5816 souls, in 1755; but the reader will easily perceive, that no fair comparison can be made, between the population in 1755, and at present, but by a strict adherence to Dr. Webster's account of the population at the former period.



STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF

SCOTLAND.

PART VIII.

NUMBER I.

PARISH OF DORNOCH.

(*County of Sutherland—Presbytery of Dornoch—Synod of Sutherland and Caithness.*)

By the Rev. Mr. JOHN BETHUNE.

Origin of the Name.

THE town and parish of *Dornoch* derive their name from the Gaelic words *Dorn-Eich*, which signifies a *horse's foot* or *hoof*; concerning which the current tradition is as follows: About the year 1259, the Danes and Norwegians, having made a descent on this coast, were attacked by William, Thane or Earl of Sutherland, a quarter of a mile to the eastward of this town. Here the Danish general was slain, and his army beaten, and forced to retire to their ships, which were not far distant. The Thane of Sutherland greatly signalled himself upon this occasion; and appears, by his personal valour and exertion, to have contributed very much to determine the fate of the day. While he singled out the Danish general, and gallantly fought his way onward, the Thane being, by some accident, disarmed, seized the leg of a horse, which lay on the ground, and with that dispatched his ad-

versary. In honour of this exploit, and of the weapon with which it was achieved, this place received the name of *Dorn-eich*, or Dornoch, as it is now called *.

Situation, Extent, Surface, Soil, Climate, &c.—Dornoch is the presbytery seat; and, alternately with Thurso in Caithness, that of the synod. The burgh of Tain, in Ross-shire, stands on the south side of the frith, directly opposite to Dornoch; and three computed miles to the westward of both, where the frith becomes pretty narrow, is the *Meikle Ferry*, so called in contradistinction to another arm of the sea, called the *Little Ferry*. On each side of the former, there is a large boat for transporting carriages, horses, and other cattle; as also a yawl for the accommodation of foot passengers; but at the Little Ferry these are found on the east side only. At this ferry, four hands serve; and the same number at each side of the Meikle Ferry. Frequent complaints are heard of both; an evil not peculiar to these ferries, nor likely to be remedied, until the property and disposal of such be vested in the public, instead of private proprietors, whose chief aim, naturally, is to have as high a rent as possible. This parish extends 9 miles from E. to W. along the coast of the frith of Dornoch; and from S. to N. or N. W. about 15 measured miles. It has a considerable extent of sea coast, not only upon the frith of Dornoch, but also on that of the Little Ferry, which runs about 4 miles up the country on the east side of the parish. The shores produce shell fish, particularly cockles and muscles; but

* This tradition is countenanced by the *Forse-Boe*, which is still retained in the arms of the burgh. In memory of the same event, a stone pillar was erected on the spot, supporting at the top a cross, encompassed by a circle, which went under the name of the *Earl's Cross*. Standing on a sandy hillock, it was gradually undermined by the winds: several years ago it tumbled down, and was broke to pieces; at present, only scattered fragments of it remain.

but yield little other benefit to the inhabitants. The seaware is of little value. There is only one boat's crew of fishermen, who are neither skilful nor adventurous: they are therefore wretchedly poor, and of little or no advantage to the place; while others from Murray and Banff-shire, catch fish on this coast, and make money, by carrying away the cod, haddocks, skate, flounders, &c. At the Little Ferry, there is an excellent harbour, where ships lie in perfect security, after having got over a bar, which runs across the entrance. At high water, vessels of 500 tons burthen may enter here. At the shore of Dornoch, too, small vessels lie in safety, with tolerable weather, as well as near the Meikle Ferry; but a formidable bar stretches from the eastern point of the coast of Dornoch, almost quite over to the south side of the frith, called (from their incessant noise) the *Gizzing Briggs*. The banks forming this bar, are not, however, so closely connected, but that vessels of considerable burthen (perhaps 300 tons) may enter, under the direction of a pilot. The shores are flat and sandy, and the lands contiguous to them generally level; but gradually elevated as they approach the hilly districts to the north. The soil is sandy; the prevalence of that quality decreasing in proportion to the distance from the shore. The higher grounds in culture, partake of moss; of the clay kind, there is little in the parish. The air here, is pure and salubrious, if we except the immediate vicinity of a large morass, extending from the town of Dornoch upwards of two miles to the westward, and lying along the county road. This has been a *common*. Some years ago, a scheme of division was formed, under the authority of the Court of Session: It was accordingly divided among the proprietors of the adjacent lands, and march stones set up; but still it lies undrained, and a nuisance, as before. Some feeble

attempts have been made towards culture at the western extremity of it,

River, Lakes, Animals, Minerals, &c.—Besides the common domestic animals, foxes, badgers, pole-cats, hares, otters, and rabbits, are found in this parish; also eagles, hawks, muirfowl, woodcocks, partridges, plovers and snipes. The river of Evelicks, which falls into the sea near the Meikle Ferry, affords a few salmon and trouts. The hilly part of the parish contains 3 or 4 small lakes, in which a variety of trouts are found. The largest of these lakes may be about a mile long, and a quarter of a mile broad. One of them produces a fine red trout, which weighs from $\frac{1}{2}$ pound to $1\frac{1}{2}$ pound. The parish is not destitute of common stone quarries. At Embo there is one of free-stone. There is no natural wood of any value. A great quantity of *Moss Fir* is found under ground: It serves for light to the poorer sort; and logs are sometimes dug up, which are used even in building. This sort of timber is remarkably durable. At both the *Skibos* there are thriving plantations of *fir*, though of no great extent. At Evelicks, some appearances of *coal* have been observed; and about a mile to the N. W. of Dornoch is found a very rich clay. It is extremely hard to dig; the *pick* must go before the spade: It remains hard after exposure to the air; yet a very short carriage makes it run to the consistency of *pitch*. When used in building, it takes an equal quantity of sand.

Agriculture and Produce.—The crops raised here, are oats, bear, pease, potatoes, and some beans and rye. About the year 1758, potatoes became a principal article of provision here. Now, they serve as the chief subsistence of the people during a third part of the year; with many for *one half*, and
with

with some even for *two thirds* of the year*. There are no field turnips cultivated here ; and scarce any sown grafs raised, except in two or three places, the seats of men of property ; which are also the only inclosures in the parish. Hence, the arable ground is, for the greater part, in constant tillage. It is therefore no wonder, that it yields poor crops, in return for much labour and expence. *Lime* is little known here, as a manure. The benefit of it is not understood : nor could it indeed be procured but at a heavy expence ; for though there are shells, the tenants cannot afford to burn them. Towards the shore, the prevailing crops are *bear* and *pease* ; in the more inland farms, *oats* ; and of the last, different kinds of white, and of small black oats are used, according to the various qualities and circumstances of the soil. The people find that *great oats* quickly degenerate in poor land ; and while they admit that this is the more fruitful grain, still they contend, that the other is, on the whole, more productive, as being more *numerous*, and yielding more straw. The average returns of bear, may be from 5 to 6 ; of oats and pease, from 3 to 4. The two last are sown in April, and reaped, the *pease*, in the end of August, and the *oats* in September. The bear is sown in May, and ripe in August. After a good crop of potatoes, barley, without any additional manure, is expected, on the coast ; but no oats, or very bad, after the barley, which is succeeded by pease ; and the following season, the land is manured and sown with bear again. In the inland parts, *oats* are sown after potatoes. Some farms yield three or more crops of oats in succession ; but the sandy soil along the

* Many poor families, who rent no land, are accommodated by others with a spot for this useful root, for the sake of the dung, soot, or ashes which they lay upon it ; and this, while it contributes essentially to the subsistence of the poorer sort, is also the most prevalent mode practised here for improving and meliorating the soil.



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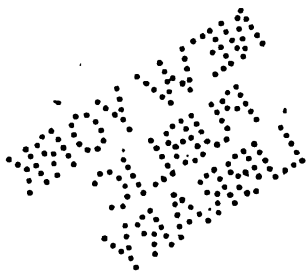
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MDCC, XCIII.





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| Population in 1755, | | - | 72,948 | 4,817 | | |
| Increase, | | - | 14,058 | 14,058 | | |

* Doubts are entertained how far the parish of Alloa contained so great a number, as 5816 souls, in 1755; but the reader will easily perceive, that no fair comparison can be made, between the population in 1755, and at present, but by a strict adherence to Dr. Webster's account of the population at the former period.

*uncomfortable lodgings, and scarcity of fuel**. The common mode of providing for winter firing here, is peculiarly injurious to health. During the season, in which the poor people are employed in carrying it out of the hills, they go to the moss, or so far in their way towards it in the evening; lie out in the open air all night, and load their horses in the morning. The great distance, badness of the roads, weakness of their horses, and scantiness of pasture, impose this cruel necessity. There is no cart road to the moss, peat and turf being carried by means of an awkward apparatus, on the backs of small, half-starved horses. In one or two districts of the parish, the people begin to see the absurdity of this practice, and have actually made some attempts towards a better within the last two years; but nothing like a competent road has yet been executed.

Roads and Bridges.—Nature has made the public roads here passable: they owe little to industry or police; the statute labour has occasionally been exacted, but it has not been applied with that constancy and vigour, which would render it efficient. A commutation of it appears to be now in contemplation, among the proprietors of this and some other northern counties. This parish is destitute of bridges; the want of one is particularly felt at the river of Evelicks, which is often not passable in winter. A piece of ground, in the vicinity of Dornoch, is said to have been destined by a former public spirited proprietor, for the purpose of upholding a bridge on this river, and to have been left by him, under the administration of the proprietor of a neighbouring estate. Whether there are any authentic documents extant, to establish

* There are no well authenticated instances of extraordinary longevity. Some, however, live to the age of 80, and some 90 years.

blish this fact, is not known. At present, the field alluded to is held in property, in the same manner as the rest of the estate, with which it has been so long connected; the present proprietor having purchased the whole, without any reservation, from his predecessor.

Ecclesiastical State.—There are no sectaries here, at least no avowed seceders from the established church; one man only, who is not a native of the parish, declines joining in the public religious services. The stipend is 80 bolls of bear, and 700 merks Scotch, including communion elements. The glebe is considerably under the legal standard. The manse was built about 16 years ago, but was never substantially executed, or properly finished, and therefore stands in need of repairs. Three aisles of the ancient cathedral, form the present church; the fourth has been long in ruins. The church has undergone different repairs, and at a considerable expence. The Countess of Sutherland*, is patron. Most of the families, of any distinction, connected with the parish, continue to

B 2

bury

* The family burying place is within the church. A neat monument has been erected over it to the memory of the last Earl and Countess of Sutherland, the parents of the present Countess, who both died in the flower of youth, within ten days of each other, at Bath, and were buried in one grave in the church at Holyrood-house, anno 1766. His Lordship had only attained the age of 32, and her Ladyship that of 26 years. This amiable pair were not less ennobled by their shining virtues, than by their high rank. Their humane dispositions and condescending manners had greatly endeared them to all orders of society. No wonder, then, that their untimely death was deeply felt, and universally deplored. The monument bears the following inscription, borrowed from David's affectionate lamentation over *Saul* and *Jonathan*:

“ They were lovely and pleasant

“ in their lives,

“ And, in their death, they were

“ not divided.

bury within the church*. In some measure to remedy this nuisance, the church was lofted some years ago, at the height of about seven feet from the ground. To this upper story, which is the present place of worship, the ascent is by stairs from without, the open area underneath still serving as a burying ground. Notwithstanding this improvement, which is a considerable one, the church is, from its vast extent and stupendous height, a very incompetent house of worship, being extremely cold, and beyond the powers of an ordinary voice †.

* Around the cathedral is the church-yard, without any fence, and in the centre of the burgh. It is the market place. The county road runs through it. Some years ago, the heritors of the parish and magistrates of the burgh, entered into a resolution to prohibit all farther burying there. A piece of ground, without the town, was accordingly marked out for that use. A day was fixed, beyond which no person was to be admitted to the old ground, and public intimations, to that purpose, repeatedly made. But the prejudices of the people prevailed, and the project was relinquished.

† Dornoch was formerly the seat of the Bishop of *Caithness*. The precise time of the erection of the see is not ascertained. Andrew, Bishop of *Caithness*, is witness to a donation by David I. to the monastery of *Dunfermline*. He was bishop here *anno* 1150, and is probably the first of whom there is any authentic account. In the 1222 was consecrated bishop here, *Gilbert Murray*; who, while yet a young man, and a canon of the church of *Moray*, greatly distinguished himself in behalf of the independence of the Scottish church. Attempts had been made to bring the clergy of that church, under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop of *York*. The project was not only patronized by the King of England, but favoured by the Pope's legate, who held a convention on the subject at *Northampton*, in presence of the Kings of England and Scotland, *anno* 1176. *Gilbert* was one of the inferior clergy, who attended the Scottish bishops cited by the legate on this occasion. After the legate had addressed a speech to the convention, warmly recommending the measure in contemplation, a long silence ensued, the bishops of Scotland being intimidated by the legate's presence and authority. At length, *Gilbert Murray* arose, and asserted the independence of his church, in terms of such manly determination, and vigorous eloquence, as at
once

Poor.—The poor's roll of this parish generally contains from 80 to 100 persons. There is no fund for their support but

once revived the courage of his associates, and extorted the applause of his adversaries; whereupon the legate, apprehending that he had spoken the prevailing sentiments of his country, broke up the assembly. The young orator was, on his return home, universally caressed, and afterwards promoted to the see of Caithness. He built the Cathedral of Dornoch; died at Scrabster, in Caithness, where the bishops had also a residence in 1245, and was afterwards canonized. A statue of him is still shewn in the church here, under the name of *St. Gilbert*; but it is not entire. The last bishop, Andrew Wood, was translated here from the Isles, anno 1680; and remained till the Revolution in 1688. Writers tell us, that *Dornoch* was also the seat of one of the monasteries of the *Trinity*, or *Red Friars*, otherwise called *Mathurines*, from their house at Paris dedicated to St. Mathurine. The great professed object of the institution of this order appears to have been the redemption of Christian captives; to which purpose a third part of their revenue is said to have been destined. "*Tertia pars Paris*," says their constitution, "*reservetur ad redemptionem captivorum, qui sunt incarcerati, pro fide Christi, a Paganis.*" Of 13 of these, which are said to have subsisted in Scotland at the Reformation, one was at *Dornoch*, founded in 1271 by Sir Patrick Murray. Not the smallest vestige of the building, however, can now be traced; the very site of it is unknown at this day. The lands belonging to the ministry of Berwick were given to this place, after that city had fallen into the hands of the English. Here stand the ruins of the bishop's castle, which appears to have been a stately and sumptuous edifice. About the year 1567, George Earl of Caithness, who claimed wardship of Alexander Earl of Sutherland, then a minor, had got the person of the latter into his possession. A tribe of Murrays, inhabiting this part of the country, who were firmly attached to the noble family of Sutherland, and beheld the conduct of Caithness with a jealous eye, contrived to get the minor conveyed from Caithness, and put under the protection of the Earl of Huntly. Caithness in revenge invaded this country, by his son John, who invested the town and Castle of Dornoch, of which the Murrays had possessed themselves. Several skirmishes took place with various success. The Murrays, no longer able to maintain the ground they had occupied, retired to the castle. Upon this the master of Caithness burnt the town and cathedral; but still the besieged defended themselves in the castle for a month longer. At length, however, they were obliged to capitulate, having undertaken to depart out of Sutherland within two months, and delivered three hostages into the hands of the conqueror. The Murrays fulfilled their engagement; yet the hostages were treacherously murdered.

but the Sunday collections raised in the church, and small fines occasionally arising from delinquencies. These collections scarce amount to 7 l. Sterling *per annum*; and even from that, small salaries are paid to the session-clerk and other parochial officers. Hence it is manifest, that the poor can derive from this source but little relief. They therefore collect their subsistence by wandering from place to place, and from parish to parish *.

Burgh.—Dornoch was erected into a *royal burgh* by a charter from Charles I. *anno* 1628. The council consists of 15, including the provost, 4 bailies, a dean of guild, and treasurer. By the constitution and practice of the burgh, 4 counsellors are annually changed. This is one of five, which compose what is called the northern district of burghs. It has no landed property, nor any other source of revenue, besides the customs levied at six annual fairs held here, and which are on the decline, as indeed the place itself is in the last stage of decay. There is no other town or village in the parish, and this hardly deserves the name. It contains only four merchant shops, such as they are. Here, and throughout the parish, there are several shoemakers, taylor, weavers and smiths, scarce one of whom lives by these professions. As they excel not, so are they but occasionally employed in them, being

* In the year 1781, a severe dearth was experienced here; no lives, however, were lost from that cause, though many of the poorer sort endured extreme hardship. The managers for the Countess of Sutherland exerted themselves laudably for the supply and relief of the people. A great quantity of victual was imported into the country by her Ladyship's order, and at her expence. Some supply was also obtained from Government. A benevolent gentleman at Glasgow, a native of this country, sent a cargo to be sold, part of it at prime cost, and part of it to be distributed *gratis* among the Poor.

being also farmers on a small scale. No conclusion therefore could be drawn from an accurate enumeration of them. The sheriff-substitute and sheriff-clerk of the county, and a messenger, also reside in the burgh; which has likewise a post-office and parochial school. But there is no physician, surgeon or apothecary in the town or parish.

Language.—The popular language is the *Gaelic*; from which also almost all the names of the places are manifestly derived. In that language, *baille* signifies a *town*. Hence, *Tor-baille*, *Kerr-baille*, *Eun-baille*, *Skia-baille*, compounded of that word and others, signifying, *mount*, *rock*, *fowl*, *wing*; answering to the figure, situation, or other circumstances of these places respectively. Some places in the vicinity of the cathedral, are denominated from the offices of those who formerly held them; as, *Croit 'n 'Espig*, *Auchintreasurich*, *Auchintaunter*; i. e. the *bishop's*, *treasurer's* and *chanter's* fields. One place, now modernized into *Cyderabad*, was anciently, and still is, in the *Gaelic*, called *Sbierra*. This, according to a Danish gentleman, who lately visited this place, signifies in the language of his country, *goat whey quarters*.

Character.—Petty frauds and offences against society are prevalent here as well as elsewhere: little disingenuities, pilferings, and wilful encroachments, are also committed; but the more daring and atrocious crimes are rarely heard of in this parish. The people here, cannot be called industrious; but they are tenacious and frugal of what they get. If they can but live without much exertion, they are content to live sparingly; and if they relax of their usual parsimony at fairs and other occasional meetings, they know how to make amends by habitual economy and abstemiousness. Upon the whole, they are a quiet, tractable sort of people, and under

proper direction and encouragement, might be employed in manufactures, with advantage to themselves and to the country. Too numerous for the necessary purposes of agriculture, they have, at present, no other object before them, to occupy their attention, or to excite their industry. Their stature is rather above the middle size. They are altogether unacquainted with the sea-faring life, nor do they discover any great ardour for the army, yet, when they do enter that service, they prove excellent soldiers. The fencible corps raised at different periods, in this country, furnished opportunities for ascertaining this fact. Every place where they have been quartered, will bear testimony to their good behaviour. They have approved themselves to be regular steady men, patient of discipline and subordination; sober and exemplary in their conduct, as soldiers and as men.

Proposed Improvements.—These may be comprehended under a few heads, viz.—the abolition of the partial, oppressive, and absurd tax on coals;—the granting of proper leases and other liberal conditions from land-holders;—the introduction of manufactures,—and the establishment of judicious arrangements for the employment and support of the poor. Peats and turf are carried from so great a distance, as to occupy the time of those who have horses for the purpose, during a considerable portion of the summer and autumn. This proves a ruinous burthen to the tenants, who are obliged, on that account, to keep many more horses than the purposes of agriculture require; and although the making of roads and the use of carts, might in a good degree alleviate the evil, the remedy would be but partial, especially with regard to those who are situated farthest off from the hills. Of these, such as have few horses, or none, buy their firing at an extravagant rate from the others, and sometimes cannot procure it on any terms. Any

ny manufacturers settled here, would stand, in this respect, in the like predicament. The poor, who cannot afford to buy, are in a miserable situation. They have to go a great way to collect burdens of *wbins*, *broom*, &c.; nor does the dry dung that lies scattered on the fields escape them. To meliorate the condition at once of the land and of the tenants, it is evident, that such very small possessions as many of them have, should not be permitted to exist. In the present state of the country, they would not furnish a comfortable subsistence, if they had them for nothing. There are, indeed, six large farms in the parish, from 30l. to 90l. Sterling, rent. There are also some others, of competent size, under the first mentioned sum: But many small tenants are crowded into one possession, and others settled on small detached portions, altogether inadequate to their support. Each of these has his plough, however poorly provided of cattle; it is but little service they are fit to perform, and that little they cannot do from the smallness of their holdings. The granting of long leases, to poor people, in these circumstances, appears not advisable, because they are not in a situation to avail themselves of them. Previous to leases, it would, perhaps, be expedient to provide otherwise for the supernumerary tenants, that the rest might be suitably accommodated: the aged should not be disturbed, but the younger supernumeraries (manufactures being first introduced) might, some of them, be employed in these, and others in the service of the tenants. Many of the present tenants would make a good exchange by this; they would, as the hired servants of others, be better fed and clothed than they now are, and would at the same time be relieved from their present solicitude, and responsibility to the landlord. In fact, this is very much the case now among the small tenants: the servant lodges and fares in every respect as well as his employer; the former receives his wages, while

the latter is, perhaps, unable to pay his rent, or to furnish cattle for his yoke. Hereby, also, another difficulty under which the country labours, would probably be removed, viz. the difficulty of procuring servants: This is, in a great measure, owing to the endless division and subdivision of farms into trifling possessions, making almost every man a master. An intelligent, active, wealthy farmer, from an improved country, set down here and there, would exhibit an example, at once instructive and animating. Such a man, entering a competent farm, with a long lease and other suitable encouragements, would shew the people how to live, and how to acquire the means of living: Meanwhile, they having their possessions enlarged, and acquiring the skill, and adopting the practice of such a man, would, as their circumstances improved, build, inclose, &c. and being first taught and enabled, would, by and by, afford the proprietor a suitable rent. With regard to manufactures, the country contains a sufficient number of inhabitants, and might furnish proper materials for them. The prices of labour and provisions are, comparatively speaking, moderate, though both have advanced considerably of late years*. Large tracts of ground in the neighbourhood, have lately been covered with sheep. Here is a foundation for the woollen manufacture. The soil here too, appears very favourable to the raising of flax. Small quantities are raised yearly; it grows well, but from unskilful management in watering,

* The pay of day-labourers can hardly be ascertained, there being few or none of that description here. If they were assured of constant employment, they might, perhaps, be found at 6d. *per* day; occasionally they demand 8d. and sometimes 1s. In harvest, women get 5d. Domestic men servants have from 30s. to 40s. *per ann.* of wages, and women servants from 20s. to 30s. and both are on the rise. Both men and women dress in a style very different from what they did 30 years ago; woollen shirts, which were then generally worn by the lower class, are laid aside, and various articles of finery introduced among both sexes.

watering, the want of a mill, and other difficulties, the profits are extremely precarious, and the whole process is so tedious and laborious, as now conducted, that little benefit is derived from it. To give manufactures, of any kind, a fair chance of success here, a company, composed of the proprietors of land, and professional men, should be formed: The latter only are fit to conduct such business; and without the protection, the influence, and co-operation of the former, they would have many obvious and serious difficulties to contend with. No where can the poor be on a worse footing than here. The principal heritors do not reside in the parish, and therefore contribute nothing towards their support: Wandering from one parish, and from one county to another, the most needy are often overlooked from ignorance of their real circumstances, while on the other hand, impostors and sturdy beggars abuse the generosity and credulity of the public. It is to be wished that the poor were universally confined to their own parishes; that by assessments upon heritors, tenants, and others, in proportion to their several interests, holdings, and circumstances, a certain provision were made for their subsistence; and that employment were furnished them, suitable to the measures of strength and ability, which they may be found to possess. This last suggests an additional argument in favour of manufactures, as thereby the poor, at least many of them, would be made to contribute somewhat to their own support, and the public burthens proportionally alleviated. Upon some such plan, the condition of the poor would be greatly improved, the public relieved from incessant teasing and frequent imposition, and the burden fairly divided among all ranks and characters, in place of falling chiefly, or solely upon the humane and benevolent, and often those least able to bear it.

NUMBER II.

PARISH OF ECKFORD.

(County of Roxburgh or Tiviotdale—Presbytery of Jedburgh—
Synod of Merse and Tiviotdale.)

By the Rev. WILLIAM PATON, A. M.

Name, Situation, and Extent.

THE ancient name of this parish, as appears from a passage in Sir Richard Baker's Chronicle, was *Ackfortb**, or *Aikefortbe*. In all modern writings it is styled Eckfoord and Eckford, the original derivation being from the Gaelic or Celtic,

* " In the 13th year of King Henry the VIII. and of James V. of Scotland, Anno Domini 1522, when the Duke of Albany was established governor of Scotland, he approached the southern borders with an army of 8000 men, probably to observe the motion of the English upon the confines of Scotland, but made no invasion into England; while the Marquis of Dorset, warden of the east and middle marches, entered *Tiviotdale* with a number of English forces, burnt all the towns and villages on every side as he marched northward, and amongst others *Ackfortb*, *Grimslay*, *Sesifortbe* manor, &c.; and upon Good Friday following withdrew back into England with his plunder, amongst which were 4000 head of cattle."

Baker's Chronicle, page 259. Ridpath's Border History, page 515 in the note.

Lord Dacres was next year appointed warden general of the borders of England opposite to Scotland. From the above quotation it would appear, that *Ackforth*, now styled *Eckford*, was at that period a place of some consequence; but no other account can be found of its original state.

Celtic, the ancient language of the whole island. The original names of many places in Scotland are still retained, with occasional alterations, probably introduced by the Dano-Saxon dialect. It is said to signify in the Gaelic the *Horse Ford*. A ford is commonly known to be a shallow part of a river proper for passage; accordingly, at no great distance from the manse, there is a very safe ford across the river Tiviot from S. to N.

The extent of the parish from N. to S. is six miles and $3\frac{1}{2}$ furlongs in length, and from E. to W. $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles in breadth. It lies in the latitude of $55^{\circ} 32'$, and longitude of $10^{\circ} 6'$ west of London, according to Mr. Stobie's map of the county, published in 1770; ($69\frac{1}{2}$ statute miles to a degree). The form is triangular, or nearly approaching to it. It is separated by Tiviot, opposite to the church, from the barony of Ormiston. The water *Kail* runs through it from S. to N. and is emptied into Tiviot, a little to the east of the church. It is nearly at an equal distance of $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Jedburgh and Kelso.

Soil, Surface, Climate and Diseases.—Upon the banks of the river Tiviot (which runs from west to east through the county, and empties itself into the Tweed at Kelso), the soil is generally light loam, rising in gentle eminences southward. It has been originally covered with heath, but by proper cultivation, is now rendered green and fit for pasture. There are no remarkable hills in this district, nor any waste lands, except Cavertoun Edge, which has been of late chiefly devoted to the annual horse races; although even some part of that spot is in cultivation. Part of Woodend Hill has been lately planted with firs, and within a few years will afford a beautiful landscape. The air here is dry and salubrious. Seldom any epidemical diseases prevail, excepting the ague, which
visits

visits this neighbourhood in the spring, occasioned by the moist exhalations from the fens, and the easterly winds from the Cheviot Hills, at the distance of a few miles southward. The people are in general healthy ; but no instances of remarkable longevity have occurred during the incumbency of the present minister.

Cultivation and Produce.—A considerable change in the mode of agriculture has been introduced within these few years. The English plough universally prevails, and 2 horses instead of 4 oxen and 2 horses are now adopted. Raising turnips, with the preparation for that crop, supercedes summer fallowing entirely. They succeed remarkably well in a dry and light soil through the whole country. Oats and barley are the grains most commonly sown. Wheat, however, is now more frequent than formerly, after fallow, turnips and potatoes ; which last is much and justly encouraged for family use, as well as for horses, cattle and swine. Pease, by many judicious farmers, is not considered as a profitable crop, since broad clover and rye-grass have been introduced ; but they are continued to be sown in smaller quantities, to mix with barley, for the bread of labouring people and cottagers of all descriptions. The raising of hemp is dropt here ; but that of lint is continued, although not in such quantities as formerly, both for family use and the public market. It is sold on an average at 11 s. or 12 s. *per stone*.*. An early kind of oats
was,

* That which grew at the Wester Moss was in the highest reputation, for the bluish cast which it acquired, from the quality of that stagnated water in which it was steeped. It sold at about 15 s. or 16 s. the stone. But since that moss was drained (for the purpose of digging a seam of marble found there), it has lost that peculiar colour which enhanced its value. Steeping lint in running water is found prejudicial to flax, destructive to fish in rivers, and otherwise a great nuisance, and accordingly is under very severe prohibitions by the justices of peace.

was, in 1776, introduced by Mr. James Church, tenant in Moss-tower, on part of the Duke of Buccleugh's estate in this parish. He raised them from 60 grains of Polish oats, which he obtained from a friend, and planted in a corner of one of his fields about the 14th of June that year. Their produce turned out very considerable. They have been sown on his farm every year since without degenerating. The soil inclines to gravel or light loam; and by experience they are found to answer best on dry land in good heart. They ripen by a month earlier than common oats, although sown at the same time and upon the same ground. They must be cut down sooner, and not allowed to continue growing until perfectly ripe, as they are more easily shaken than any other grain. They commonly yield between 11 and 12 stone of meal to the boll of oats, which in this country is 5 fells or firlots for oats and barley, and 4 firlots for wheat, rye, and pease; so that upon weighing a boll of these oats (including the weight of the sack), the whole amounted to 28 stone by the Kelso standard. The reputation of these oats has increased so rapidly, that they are now generally sown in this country, as well as through most other parts of Scotland, several parts of England, and they have even found their way across the Atlantic to America. The grain of every sort commonly sown here, is sufficient for the consumption of the inhabitants. Quantities are sold by sample in the weekly markets of Kelso and Jedburgh, at the prices then current. *Horses have of late

* Wheat is sown in September, and more frequently in October; rye much about the same time; oats in March and beginning of April; pease about the middle of that month; barley from the middle of April to the middle of May; turnips from the beginning of June to the middle of July; harvest commences, in favourable seasons, about the end of August, and generally through the month of September. The prices of grain and provisions vary according to circumstances and the state of the preceding crops; wheat, at an average, sells at

late years advanced in price, especially such as are fit for husbandry and carting. Black cattle are generally of a good size, being bred from large English bulls. Although there are not any stock farms, properly so denominated, in the parish, particular attention has been paid to the breed of sheep within these few years. Their wool is much finer, and consequently is rising in price, which is from 15s. to 16s. at an average *per* stone. There are 16 lb. of 24 oz. to the pound in the stone. The sale has been very quick, and the demand still continues. The inclosing of land with hedge and ditch is now prevalent, and meets the inclination of the farmer, who finds his profit and convenience thereby. They allow their land-

lords

at 30s. the boll used in this country; barley from 15s. to 18s.; oats 15s.; pease and rye at 16s. The demand from other places frequently makes a considerable alteration in the market. Oatmeal is always sold by the stone weight, the same as butcher meat, the medium price about 1s. 6d. 16 stones to a boll; beef usually 3½ d. the pound; veal, mutton, and lamb, at 3d.; pork 4d.; geese 1s. 6d. stripped of their feathers and ready for use; ducks and hens 8d.; turkeys 2s. 6d.; all at an average. The wages paid to domestic servants have increased much since the improvements in agriculture took place; a man receives annually 7l. and a woman 50s. with maintenance; day labourers 8d.; women 6d.; wrights, 10d.; masons 1s. in summer, and 10d. in winter; tailors 8d.; turnip hoers and hay makers, 8d.; a man for harvest work 1s., and a woman 9d., with their diet. Hinds, who provide their own diet, are allowed a free house, grass for their cow in summer, and fodder during winter and spring, 8 bolls of oats for meal, 2 bolls of barley, 1 boll of pease for family bread, and 1 firiot of potatoes planted. Every cottager pays the rent of the house by harvest labour, has a small spot of ground adjoining to the habitation, for furnishing cabbage and pot-herbs, some potatoes planted in the field, lint sown, and sometimes potatoes or barley, as far as their dung covers the surface. These cottagers, with their families, are eagerly desired by the farmers, ready at a call upon every emergency, employment being given to their children from the age of 8 or 10 years and upwards, according to their respective abilities. Since the cultivation of turnips became so universal, these cottages are valued at one guinea rent through the year: The family are provided with turf brought home by their master. These houses are never left unoccupied, although reared at the expence of the farmer.

lords interest for such sums of money as may be necessary for inclosing. Every farm has several upon it, generally in a thriving condition. The rent is from 10s. to 20s. *per acre*. The numbers of tenants has of late years diminished by the union of several small possessions into one. But to carry on the business in these large farms, a greater number of servants is required; so that this has not had so much influence in depopulating the parish as might have been expected. According to the report of the most judicious farmers, one half of their land is laid out in tillage, one fourth in turnips, and the rest in pasture. Such fields as are sown with red or broad clover, and rye-grass, for hay, continue in that state for one year, and then are plowed for other crops.

Manure.—Two seams of marl, deeply impregnated with shells, were opened, about the year 1777, at Eckford Wester Moss, upon the Duke of Buccleugh's estate, the upper one of about 8 feet thick, covered with 9 feet of moss; the seam below it 7 feet at an average, separated from the other with a stratum of clay of 4 feet, without any other intermixture. The marl is found to suit a light soil, when well spread on the surface, in proportion of 60 or 70 bolls to the English acre: a strong loam requires a larger quantity. All green crops, such as pease, grass, clover, &c. receive benefit from it; and when spread on pasture ground, in the beginning of winter, and allowed to mellow by frost, it proves of very great advantage to the ensuing crop. The measure for the boll is a cube, containing 8 cubic feet: it is sold to the Duke's tenants for 3 d., and to others for 4 d.; at the distance of 3 miles for 2 d.; at 5 miles, and all above that, for 2 d. the boll. Its excellent quality increases the demand; for it fully gratifies the most sanguine expectations of the farmer and improver of land. Lime is also much used, and with great advantage, although transported from Northumberland,

at the distance of upwards of 20 miles. A quarry of limestone has lately been wrought at about half that distance. The experiment has not as yet been so extensive as fully to ascertain its excellence for the purpose of husbandry. The proprietor (by its demand) has been encouraged to erect a draw kiln; and as it seems to increase, another kiln is proposed to be built next season.

Proprietors and Rent.—Property has not undergone any considerable change of late in this district, excepting Marlefield, purchased by the Marquis of Tweeddale from William Nisbet of Dirleton, Esq. along with the estate of Grubbet. There are 8 heritors in all: Only one resides constantly, and another occasionally during part of the summer season. The valued rent of the district by the commissioners of supply, anno 1742, is 11130 l. 13 s. 4 d. Scotch. The present real rent is 3699 l. 4 s. 1 d. Sterling.

Church.—The present church was built about the year 1662. It was completely repaired and new seated in 1774 and 1775, and is now rendered exceedingly convenient. The manse was rebuilt in 1775, and is equally commodious. The offices have been lately repaired. The glebe is rather small, even including the pasture ground. Water for the family use is transported from the river Tiviot in a water carriage, there being no spring in the immediate neighbourhood of the house. Of late, pump wells have been dug in the villages of Eckford, Wester Moss, and Moss Tower, and some other places, which supply the inhabitants plentifully with that necessary article. The living consists of 35 bolls 3 firlots 1 peck and 2 lippies of barley (of the measure commonly used in this county, viz. 5 firlots to the boll); 23 bolls and 4 stones of oatmeal (16 stones to the boll); 32 l. 18 s. 7½ d. Sterling, in money; 5 l. for communion elements; 42 lb. of cheese,
from

from a farm in the parish, of vicarage tithes, paid regularly every year, not having been commuted; with a piece of muirland for the exclusive right of turf, which the minister generally occupies yearly, at the distance of above a mile. By the late additional expence of living, the present incumbent found it necessary to commence a process of augmentation of stipend before the Lords Commissioners for plantation of kirks and valuation of teinds. Having met with no opposition therein from his heritors, a decret of modification was pronounced; but as the process is not quite finished, the amount of the augmentation cannot as yet be ascertained. The King is patron. Eckford, from ancient records, seems to have been a vicarage dependent upon the Abbey of Jedworth, commonly called Jedburgh.

Poor.—There are no parochial funds, or mortified money for the poor. Their maintenance arises from assessments every half year, at what is called a parish meeting for that purpose; the one half upon the heritors according to their valued rent, and the other half upon their tenants according to their present rents, respectively. The sum assessed is levied by a collector appointed for that purpose, who is allowed some gratuity for making the cast, and levying the money. It is put into the hands of overseers for the poor, who distribute it to those persons admitted upon the roll of pensioners, according to the weekly allowance paid, which varies in proportion to the rise and fall of grain. Persons claiming this charity, must have resided in the parish for 3 years, without interruption, before the application is made; and they are required to subscribe a bond or deed of conveyance, bequeathing their effects to the heritors at their decease, as a check to prevent concealed property, or alienating this charity, and to hinder the interference of relations in that event. These effects are seldom exacted, and therefore turn out of small account to the parish.

The funerals of such persons are commonly ordered to be defrayed by the meeting. When disease or misfortune attacks any person, as during the high price of oatmeal in 1781, and proper application is made to the meeting for charity, what is called an interim supply is granted. There are no begging poor in this district. The weekly collections in the church, which are but small, are also applied to alleviate the wants of the most needy as they occur. The number of paupers at last enrolment was 24.

School.—There is a public school, and dwelling house for accommodating the schoolmaster, kept in repair by the heritors; the salary was lately augmented, and is at present 8 l. 6 s. 8 d. yearly. He has a small piece of ground inclosed for a garden, contiguous to the house: his other emoluments are, 30 s. for collecting poor's rates yearly, school-fees for English, 1 s.; 1 s. 6 d. for writing, 2 s. 6 d.; for arithmetic, *per* quarter each; for registration of each baptism, 4 d.; proclamation of a marriage, 1 s.; extract of a testimonial for a single person, 4 d.; for a family, 6 d.; as clerk to the kirk session, 10 s. yearly; besides some casual articles. The number of scholars is from 40 to 50 at an average; but as the school is not central, being towards the western limits of the parish, some infirm persons are generally employed to teach young children at a distance (in Caverton and Celsford) the English language, and the elementary principles of religion from the catechism. They are furnished with a house *gratis* from the farmers, and satisfied for their pains with what the parents can afford.

Fuel.—The fuel commonly used in families is coals, which are brought from a distance of about 20 miles, and some from Northumberland. Although in some parts of the county there is the appearance of small seams, none of the trials hitherto made have succeeded, nor is it probable they will, without considerable

considerable expence and perseverance. The common people make use of turf, broom and furze; but these two last have become scarce, through cultivation of the land that formerly produced them. Peats are not plentiful, there being no moorlands but in places where the marl is got; and this being nearly exhausted, the poorer inhabitants must suffer considerably very soon by the want of this article: and indeed the distance from coal is one great reason that manufactures have not been established in this country, though wool is in great abundance, and the necessaries of life may be obtained for the most part at moderate rates.

Population.—The population in 1756 was about 890 souls above the age of 8. It has often varied according to circumstances. An accurate state of baptisms cannot be obtained, as dissenters from the establishment seldom order the names of their children to be engrossed; and the register of births, marriages and burials is not regularly kept, as the parish clerk has no allowance for that purpose. The dues to government for these are paid on the first of October yearly: of these he preserves a memorandum, and afterwards enters them on the records, according to which the annexed abstract* will furnish some idea of the population for ten years, past.

Statist-

* *Abstract of Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths, during the last ten years.*

| Years. | BAPTISMS. | | | MAR. | BURIALS. | | |
|--------|-----------|------|--------|------|----------|------|--------|
| | Males. | Fem. | Total. | | Males. | Fem. | Total. |
| 1781 | 14 | 11 | 25 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 11 |
| 1782 | 10 | 10 | 20 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| 1783 | 10 | 7 | 17 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| 1784 | 5 | 12 | 17 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| 1785 | 13 | 11 | 24 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| 1786 | 11 | 5 | 16 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 1787 | 5 | 9 | 14 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| 1788 | 10 | 3 | 13 | 7 | 10 | 7 | 17 |
| 1789 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 10 | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| 1790 | 6 | 8 | 14 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| Total, | 88 | 81 | 169 | 69 | 44 | 46 | 90 |

Statistical Table of the Parish of Eckford.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|--------------|------|
| Length in English miles, | - | - | - | 6 |
| Breadth, | - | - | - | 4½ |
| Population in 1755, | - | - | - | 1083 |
| ————, anno 1791, | - | - | - | 932 |
| Decrease, | - | - | - | 131 |
| Average of births, for ten years preceding 1791, nearly | - | - | - | 17 |
| ———— of deaths, for ditto, | - | - | - | 9 |
| ———— of marriages, | - | - | nearly | 7 |
| Number of males, | - | - | - | 436 |
| ———— females, | - | - | - | 516 |
| ———— males under 10 years of age, | - | - | - | 71 |
| ———— females, under ditto, | - | - | - | 67 |
| ———— families, | - | - | - | 219 |
| ———— houses inhabited | - | - | - | 212 |
| ———— members of the Established Church, | - | - | - | 742 |
| ———— Seceders and Relievers, | - | - | - | 210 |
| ———— proprietors residing, | - | - | - | 2 |
| ———— ————— non-residing, | - | - | - | 6 |
| ———— clergymen, | - | - | - | 1 |
| ———— established schoolmasters, | - | - | - | 1 |
| ———— farmers, | - | - | - | 25 |
| ———— keepers of alehouses, | - | - | - | 2 |
| ———— smiths, masons, wrights, &c. | - | - | - | 34 |
| ———— millers, | - | - | - | 5 |
| ———— servants, | - | - | - | 106 |
| ———— poor, | - | - | - | 24 |
| Valued rent in Scotch money, | - | - | L. 11,130 13 | 4 |
| Real rent in Sterling, | - | - | 3699 4 | 1 |

Roads, Bridges, Rivers, &c.—There is a turnpike road from Carlisle to Berwick upon Tweed, Newcastle, &c. made at the expence of the county, through the parish, but kept in repair

repair by the tolls. Statute labour, by a late act of parliament, is commuted at the rate of 7 s. 6 d. Sterling, for every 100 l. Scotch of valued rent. These roads are found to be of essential service for promoting speedy communication in an inland country. There is an old bridge of one arch over Kail Water, at the Mill of Eckford; the parapet walls are gone. It is said to have been built by the money arising from vacant stipends about the Revolution. There is another over the same water, near its conflux with the river Tiviot, built at the expence of the county, on the great turnpike road. The fish in these rivers are trout and salmon. The trout in Kail are preferable to those in the Tiviot: The salmon come up the Tiviot at all seasons, but in greater numbers in the months of *September* and *October*, for the purpose of spawning. The gentlemen of the county have it in agitation to form a canal from Berwick to Ancrum Bridge, up the Tweed, and to cross the Tiviot. A subscription for defraying the expence of a survey, to be taken by Mr. Whitworth, was lately set on foot, and the survey taken accordingly from Ancrum Bridge, and eastward, in the neighbourhood of this place. The committee appointed for conducting the canal, having abridged the former plan, appointed Mr. Whitworth to survey and give in an estimate of their last plan, which was reported to the meeting of the Michaelmas Head Court on the 14th of October last, of which they approved, and appointed the same committee to circulate subscription papers, towards raising the necessary fund, for carrying the work into execution.

Eminent Men.—Sir William Bennet of Grubbet, was born and resided at Marlesfield, in this parish, the greater part of his life. He was a gentleman of considerable genius and learning. It is reported that he afforded assistance to the late Allan Ramsay, in composing the pastoral comedy of the Gen-

tle Shepherd, and in some other poetical productions of those times. He was very justly respected for integrity and benevolence; and indeed the whole family are said to have been remarkable for hospitality and public spirit. Their remains lie interred in an aisle, adjoining to the church of Eckford, on the north side of it, with this inscription over the door:—
Hoc monumentum sibi et suis bene merentibus, ponendum curavit Dominus Gulielmus Bennet, Eques Auratus, Anno Salutis 1724.

Antiquities.—On the south of the present village of Cessford, the remains of the ancient castle of that name*, are yet to be seen. No date is discernible to fix the period of its erection; but from those parts of the walls yet entire, it appears to have been a place of considerable strength, both from the thickness

* The first proprietor of this castle, mentioned in history, was Andrew Kerr, who obtained the title of Baron of Cessford, and got a charter of confirmation from Archibald Earl Douglas, thereafter stiled Duke of Turenne, Douglas and Longueville. This charter is dated *anno* 1446; and in the reign of Queen Elizabeth and James VI. of Scotland, *anno* 1570, the laird of Cessford was made warden of the Scottish middle marches*; it became afterwards one of the titles of the noble family of *Roxburgh*, which it still continues to be. Such was the situation of *Scotland* before the accession of James VI. to the throne of England, that every Baron's house was more or less fortified, according to the power and consequence of its lord, or situation of his castle. Those especially, at a distance from the seat of government, and therefore not under the awe of the law, when the predatory system prevailed, found it necessary for their habitations, and places of residence, to be better defended against the incursions of the neighbouring plunderers. Cessford castle, therefore, being only at the distance of 4 or 5 miles from the English confines, was necessarily rendered a place of security; and according to tradition there was a subterraneous vault for concealing both persons and goods within its walls, to which access was only got by one aperture, which was opened or shut as seemed necessary by a large stone with an iron ring in it. This stone and ring have been seen by some persons still alive; but the entrance to the *peel* or dungeon is now chocked up with rubbish.

* *Redpath's History*, p. 635.

thickness of the walls (which are 12 feet at an average) the vestiges of the battlements on the top, the embrasures on the sides, and the remains of a surrounding moat, which was probably furnished with water from a spring above the present farm house. The roof is entirely gone. The area within the walls, discernible, is 39 feet in length, and 20 in breadth; the entry to it was probably from the N.E. About 7 or 8 years ago, in digging for stones on the farm of Hospital-land, belonging to the Duke of Roxburgh, the labourers discovered a tumulus, in the bottom of which were found two earthen pots; the one about 3 feet deep, and 18 wide; the other rather smaller; both containing blackish dust, and small fragments of human bones: Upon exposure to the external air, these vessels tumbled down and could not be preserved*. There have also been found silver coins of Queen Mary, in good preservation, near the shepherd's house in Easter Wooden, where some faint vestiges of a tower, it is said, have been traced. Part of the walls of a strong building were to be seen several years ago at Moss Tower†, so denominated from its ancient situa-

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* Near the site of the scaffolding erected on Caverton Edge, for viewing the annual horse races, and at a gravel pit on the road between Caverton and Kelso, there was found a copper vessel, of about 6 inches diameter, enclosing an excavated wooden ball; and in both these last mentioned places, similar parcels of black dust and fragments of bones were found. In digging for stones in Wooden Hill, in the estate of the Duke of Buccleugh, to form an inclosure for a plantation of firs, two or three vessels of earthen substance, of about a foot deep, were got, containing similar dust, and fragments, supposed to be of children by their size; and about 4 years ago, in the field called the *Dales*, near the village of Eckford, a stone coffin, (or square stones erected, and covered with another large one) was seen, containing bones of a large size.

† From a passage in the Border History, § it appears, that the Earl of Suffex, anno 1570, with an English army, burnt and razed this tower, belonging to the

Laird

§ *Redpath's History*, page 635.

tion in a marsh: these walls are since pulled down. There was a chapel in former times towards the east of the village of Caverton, but no vestige remains. A small church-yard is still occupied in sepulture by some families in the parish, (and probably by some others), whose ancestors had privilege there; and a spring in the adjacent field, north of the church-yard, bears the designation of the *Holy Well*, or *Priest's Well*. About a quarter of a mile south from the family house of the late Mr. Hall of Haugh-head, situated on the banks of the Kail, there is an eminence, seemingly artificial, called *Haugh-head Kipp* (the adjacent fields being level), of a circular form. It had formerly been planted round with firs, some few of which are still remaining; Upon the top of it a plain flat stone

Laird of Buccleugh, and still part of his Grace's estate in this district. It is reported to have been occupied by *Hepburn Lord Botwell*; but no inscription or monumental information can be traced to confirm this tradition. The incumbent has seen a medal of the Empress *Faustina*, that was taken from the heart of a peat found at Moss Tower. It was about the size of a half crown; the letters and inscription were very distinct. In Wester Moss of Eckford, nuts, roots, and pieces of large oak, and other trees, have been dug up; also some horns of the red deer, very large, and the skull of a bison.—Since writing the above, the incumbent visited and inspected a place, vulgarly called the *Black Dike*, which, by its elevation above the contiguous plowed field, cannot fail of attracting observation. It is on a rising ground, about half a mile from Kail water, and to the east thereof. This tumulus measured 27 feet over; at its western extremity, where it appeared to have been dug for a small space, from side to side 33 feet. Its whole length is 342 feet; and at the eastern extremity it is 42 feet over. It lies in a direct line E. and W. The materials of which it is composed, so far as can be observed, are fine loose mould, intermixed with large stones, covered over with heath, although there is none in its immediate vicinity. This tumulus, or barrow, is reported to have been a place of sepulture in troublesome times; but no human bones have as yet been dug up. In the year 1349, during the reign of *Edward the III.* of England, and *David Bruce* of Scotland, when the Scotch invaded the English borders, 5000 of their army dropt down dead of the plague, having caught the infection, which at that time raged through the realm of England; but whether their bodies were there interred is uncertain.

stone of an ell square, bears an inscription, commemorative of some rencounter the proprietor had, with those who had taken violent possession of his estate, and were plowing his fields. The inscription, so far as could be taken down on the spot, is as follows, viz.

Here Holy Hall boldly maintain'd his right,
'Gainst Reef *, plain force armed with lawles might;
For Twenty Pleughs harnes'd in all their Gear,
Could not his valient nobl Heart make Fear,
But with his sword he cut the formost Soam,
In two, Hence drove both Pleughs and
Pleugh-Men home. 1620.

This perhaps may allude to what happened in the reign of James I. of England, when uniformity of religion was projected for both kingdoms, and, the Common Prayer Book being intended to be introduced into Scotland, occasioned no small disturbance for a considerable time.

Character.—The people are in general economical, sober, industrious, and contented with their situations in life; maintain society amongst themselves, and with their neighbours; are hospitable to strangers who accidentally come amongst them; and are endowed with a liberal spirit to relieve the distressed, and alleviate the miseries of their fellow creatures upon every emergency, according to their abilities. The only means of meliorating their condition, is by a prudent and persevering attention to what they can perform; and, if the projected canal, from Berwick up the river Tweed, and part of Tiviot, take place, coals and lime, with foreign commodities, will be obtained at an easier rate, and the produce of this country exported conveniently; which would be a fortunate circumstance, not only to this district, but to the whole country.

Miscellaneous Observations.—At the distance of a few yards from Celsford Castle, and to the N. W. of the vestige of the Moat, there stands a venerable ash tree, called the *Crow Tree*, expanding its branches, and covering a considerable surface with its shade, which, though very old, seems as yet in a healthy state. It measures at the base 27 feet 8 inches round the girth; at 6 feet upwards, 15 feet; and at the clift where the branches (which are thick and strong) diverge and spread, 14 feet 6 inches; so that its diameter, at an average, to the clift, is 5 feet, and is supposed to contain 300 feet of wood. This tree is of great antiquity, and has been often visited and admired by the curious.—There are 3 corn mills in the district, two of them on the Kail, the other on the Tiviot; one of these was lately rebuilt, and the machinery properly adapted for grinding oats, barley and wheat, and for making pot barley.—There is a saw mill at Marlefield, on the Kail Water, where the plantation of firs, fit for dales, paling and other purposes, are prepared, and meet with ready sale. There is also a fulling mill on the same river.—In June last, a nest of those carnivorous birds, usually called *hooded crows*, was discovered by a shepherd on the banks of Kail. There were two young ones in it; one of which was entirely *white*. By some inattention it died; and its remains (lately in the incumbent's possession), were transmitted to a certain virtuoso in Edinburgh, for preservation in his museum, where it may be seen. There are two quarries of good free stone, one of them at present not occupied; and a sort of grey slate taken from the bed of Kail, now disused, being apt to slice, and at any rate found too heavy for roofing.

NUMBER III.

PARISH OF GIGHA AND CARA.

(County of Argyll—Presbytery of Kintyre—Synod of Argyll.)

By the Rev. Mr. WILLIAM FRASER.

Origin of the Names.

IN an account of an expedition of Haco King of Norway into Scotland, it is mentioned, that on his way to Kintyre, he touched at Gubey (now Gigha), where one of the priests, in his train, died, and was buried with great pomp; and that some friars of a certain order attended the funeral with a pall. *Gudey*, or *Gud-ay*, is interpreted "the Island of God." In the Gaelic language these words, "*the Island of Gigba*," are written *Eilean Gbia*, and pronounced *Eilean Yia*. *God's Island* is written, in Gaelic, *Eilean Dbia*, and pronounced, as above, *Eilean Yia*. Now as both *db*, and *gb*, in this language, sound like the consonant *y* in English, people, without attending to the meaning, might take the inflected case, *Dbia*, as if it were *Gbia*, of which the nominative is *Gia*, as *Dia* is the nominative of the other word. This change might also have proceeded from religious considerations. Though men named, or pointed out, certain places as belonging to the Deity, they never called such places directly by his name. Thus *Eilean Dbia*, or *God's Island*, might with propriety be applied to a particular island consecrated to the Supreme Being; but it would be reckoned

both

both absurd and impious to call it *Dia*, i. e. *God*. Therefore such people, while they endeavour to keep the analogy of sound, avoided, by the change of a single letter, the charge of absurdity and profanation. As to the letters *gb*, now thrown into the middle of the word (*Gigba*), it is only done in imitation of a particular provincial sound, by which some pronounce it *Giga*. The origin of *Cara* is unknown.

Situation and Extent.—This parish, consisting of two islands, Gigha and Cara, forms a part of the southern district of Argyllshire, called Kintyre, from which it is divided by a channel $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles broad. It lies along the west coast of that district, extending nearly from N. E. to S. W. The island of Gigha is about 7 English miles in length, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ in breadth. Proprietors, Mr. M'Neill of Gigha, Mr. M'Neill of Galla-choillie, and Mr. Stevenson of Airdglamie. South of Gigha, at the distance of $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile, lies the island of Cara, which is near 1 mile long, and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile broad. Both islands are low, having few hills, and those hardly so high as the arable land on the opposite coast of Kintyre. In both, the soil is fertile, vegetation quick, and the air salubrious.

GIGHA.

Appearance, Soil, and Coast.—The east side and both ends of Gigha, are for the most part arable. The west side and middle, hilly, but mixed with arable land. The soil in general is a rich loam, with a mixture, in some places, of sand, moss or clay. The shore, on the west side, is high, rocky and bold, except near both ends, where there are breakers at some distance from the land. On the east side there are several points jutting into the sea, with a few sunk rocks, which render the navigation in some degree dangerous to strangers, especially at night: In day-light the breakers over
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the sunk rocks are visible. Between these points, are several bays and creeks, where small vessels can be safely moored. In the bay of Airdme'anish, at the head of which is the church, there is good holding ground in 5 and 7 fathom water. Between Gigha and Cara lies Gigulum, a small uninhabited island, with a range of breakers and large rocks running S. W. In the sound between this island and Gigha, there is a good anchoring place for large vessels, which may be conveniently moored on the Gigulum side, by means of iron rings fixed in the rock. The entrance from the west is between the above mentioned range of rocks and the island of Gigha, and from the east between Gigulum and Gigha.

Tides, Sea Ware, Kelp, &c.—The tide runs north; but there is no remarkable current near the coast; nor is it easy to ascertain at what rate of knots it runs, being a kind of eddy, that strikes off from the rapid current, which runs between the Mull of Kintyre and the Sound of Ilay. It seldom rises above $5\frac{1}{2}$ or 6 feet; and that only with a north wind, or in calm water. With a south wind, there is hardly a foot of difference between high and low water. This is attended with disadvantages in repairing, loading and unloading large vessels. It also prevents the manufacturing of kelp to any great extent; 7 tones, at an average, being the greatest quantity made in a season*. There is, however, such abundance of sea ware thrown ashore in stormy weather, as sufficiently serves the inhabitants for the purpose of manuring their ground. Though shell sand abounds in several parts of the island, it is never used as a manure, being attended with
more

* Sea ware has not hitherto been cut annually, but at the end of every 3 years. By getting so much time to grow, the quantity of kelp may be about 33 tones at every cutting of the sea ware.

more trouble than sea ware, and having failed the only time it was tried, owing to a mistake in the quantity laid on, and the nature of the soil on which it was put. To people who are tenacious of old customs, and averse to deviate from the practice of their ancestors, the want of success in such a case, is a more powerful argument against it, than any thing that can be advanced in its favour: Therefore it is in vain to maintain, that this valuable kind of manure is preferable to wrack, or more permanent in its effects. There are inexhaustible banks of another kind of sand, which is used in making window glass. It is white, very fine, and, when closely examined, the particles have a pellucid appearance. Specimens of the glass were sent to the proprietor, from the glass work at Dumbarton, where, in the course of three years, they got above 600 tons of this sand. The colour of the glass is greenish.

Fish and Fishing Bank.—Shell fish are found in great abundance. They are of a large size and excellent quality, consisting of lobsters, crabs, cockles, and razor fish (commonly called *spout fish*). About two leagues north of Gigha, there is a fishing bank lying, N. E. and S. W., near 4 leagues in length. From the beginning of February to the end of March, the N. E. end of this bank is frequented by fine grey cod, weighing, when caught, from 6 to 16 lb. each; besides some ling, large haddocks, and a great number of skate and dog fish. From March till May the S. W. end is frequented by excellent red cod. This bank had been neglected for 20 years, till Mr. M'Neill of Gigha, in 1788, fitted out 1 boat by way of trial. In 1789, 2 boats were employed, and every year since, from 5 to 8. But their success has, by no means, been such as to encourage the people to persevere; owing partly to the want of large sailing boats, which would enable

enable them to set and raise their long lines in the month of March, which is always stormy, by reason of the east wind; that sets in periodically at that season. Another cause is, the present duty on salt, which is so high, and all the regulations respecting it so numerous and complex, that, till a change be made in this branch of the revenue, it is impossible to carry on the white fishing, in such a manner as to become extensively useful, to those whose local situation is most favourable for it*. The other fish taken on this coast, are foal, lythe, mac-

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karel,

* There was a great fishing on this bank formerly, but it had been neglected for upwards of 20 years, till Mr. McNeill of Gigha came to the island in 1788, when 1 boat and 4 men were employed by way of trial. In 1789, 2 boats and 8 men were employed: during these two years they had little success. In spring 1790, 5 boats were fitted out with 4 men in each, besides four additional men for salting and curing. By their industry, 4000 fish were sent to market. In spring 1791, 8 boats, with the same proportion of men, were employed; and about the same number of fish, as the preceding year, were sent to market. A man who had the charge of Mr. McNeill's estate, purchased the fish at 4d. each cod; but, having used debenture salt the first year, was obliged to export the fish to Ireland, where, after trying different markets, he was at last under the necessity of selling the whole at half the price he had paid, besides other expences. The second year, in order to avoid such inconveniences, he purchased small salt which paid duty in Scotland, and entitled him to dispose of his fish for home consumption. This cargo he sold at Glasgow, at the average price of 6d. each fish.

The method of fishing the cod is as follows:— They are taken with a long line, 700 fathoms in length, having from 400 to 500 large white tinned hooks. The bait used is the fish of a large white wilk, called *Bustie*; or *Dog-wilk*; which is found on a different bank from that whereon the cod is caught. At the beginning of the fishing, a dog is killed and singed, and the flesh, after rotting a little, is cut in small pieces and put into *creels* or *baskets*, made of hazel wands, for the purpose. These creels are sunk by means of stones thrown into them. The flesh of the dog, in its putrid state, is said to attract the wilk, which crawls up round the sides of the basket, and getting in at the top, cannot get out again, owing to the shape of it, which is something like that of the wire mouse trap. After the first day's fishing, the heads and entrails of the cod, with skate, and

karel, seaths, cuddies, rock fish (or sea perch), gurnet and flounder.

Roads

and dog-fish, are put into the creels, which are visited every day, the wilks taken out, and fresh bait of the same kind put in, there being no more occasion for dog's flesh.

The other fish caught on the coast of Gigha, are lythe, mackarel, rock-fish, (or sea perch) seath, and cuddie. All these frequent sunk rocks near the shore, and are taken with a stout fishing-rod, hair line, and a hook, mounted with either a goose or sea gull's white feather, sometimes with a small piece of almed white leather. The *cuddie* (or young seath), is taken with a small rod and line, having a small hook (or a pin bended in the form of a hook), mounted with a feather as above. They are fished from the rocks along the shore. At certain times of the year, the cuddie is taken with the fish of the black small wilk, parboiled. The cuddie is taken either with the fly or bait all the year. Every person fishes for himself on the rocks, only the whole party join in pounding the bait, and casting it into the sea, in order to collect a greater number of the fish. As soon as the pounded bait is thrown in, these beautiful small fish make their appearance in great numbers, darting at once from all directions like the radii of a circle. Lythe, &c are only killed from May to November. Every boat has 4 men, and each boat catches from 60 to 200 seaths in an evening. Rock fish, or sea perch, are often taken in creels, which are sunk in deep water near the shore. There are also flounders and eels, but they are seldom caught.

At an average, there are annually about 60 of the inhabitants employed in the herring fishing, from June till January; all their wages are laid out in purchasing clothes and other necessaries for themselves. Most of them being unmarried, they live all spring with their parents or friends, which hurts the interest of both parties; as, from the habits they acquire on board, they are not much inclined to work hard ashore. This inconvenience is increased, in proportion as the fishing is successful; for, when there is a good fishing (as they are paid by the month), their wages will be less, and the period of their inactivity prolonged. For instance, if a vessel makes her cargo in a month or six weeks, she immediately returns home, and the hands are discharged, without any prospect of more employment that season. Hence the propriety of giving a small bounty to the hands employed in killing the herring, according to the number of barrels, and the time in which they were taken; at least, something should be done to make up the difference of their wages, when the fishing is successful. And if the same were extended to the cod-fishing, it would be attended with very happy effects. In this case, all those persons might be usefully employed from the beginning of February, to the next herring fishing in June.

Roads and Ferry.—From the harbour of Gigulum sound, there is an excellent line of carriage road, finished half-way to the north end of the island, which will soon be completed the whole length, to the great convenience of the inhabitants, who are now beginning to use carts, of which there are already fix in the island. The statute labour for making roads is converted into money at the rate of 1 s. 6d., or 2 s. for each person annually. Besides this fund, there is a shilling in the pound, valued rent, payable over the whole county, by an act of Parliament passed in 1774 ; but the money thus raised, goes to the great lines of road (particularly specified in that act) on the main land ; and as these are still incomplete, nothing of the money exigible by the act of Parliament, can be applied to other places ; consequently the road in Gigha has been carried on at the expence of the principal proprietor. Between Gigha and the opposite coast of Kintyre, there is a regular ferry and two boats, one in the island, and one on the main land. The disadvantage attending this ferry, is, the want of a quay on the Kintyre side, which is so much exposed to the storm, that in winter it is not easy to save a boat, otherwise than by drawing her up. To this may be added another inconvenience, the want of a proper house to accommodate people who wait at the ferry. Both these inconveniences might be removed at a small expence, and, if removed, that expence would soon be refunded. It is with regret it must be observed, that such inattention to public convenience has been, and still is, too frequent in the Highlands.

Houses and Quarries.—Within these 4 years, two new public houses, each consisting of two storeys and garrets, and a malt kiln and granary, all with slated roofs, have been built, besides repairs and offices about the old manse, which the principal proprietor occupies as a temporary mansion house,

the late incumbent not taking it as a legal manse. There were also built two store-houses, one at each harbour, a brew-house, and 14 other houses. Exclusive of the church, there are in all 5 slated houses, 4 of which are inhabited. Round the whole island, along the shore, there are excellent flag quarries, of a gray and bluish colour, which can be easily dressed, and make good pavement, floors, or hearth stones. Neither lime nor free stone, at least of good quality, have been discovered, but there is abundance of whin and grey stone, fit for building handsome houses.

Fuel.—The only fuel here is peats, which are so scarce, that the proprietors are under the necessity of allowing the inhabitants to cut away the surface of pasture, and even meadow grounds. In many places the rocks have been scalped, so as to make the sight very disagreeable to the eye, besides the untoward consequences to the proprietors, who lose a great part of very good pasture land. This disadvantage must always increase, until some plan is adopted to enable the people to purchase coals, which an equalizing duty at the pit would effectuate. The present duty upon that necessary article, which is generally thought to be as unproductive to the revenue, as it is grievous to the subject, is so universally reprobated, that it is astonishing how it is kept up so long. Whatever might have been the reason for adopting such a plan of taxation at first, it must now be considered as both absurd and oppressive; to tax people who, besides the original price of the coals, are obliged to hire vessels at a great expence to carry them home, while those who are near the coal works and free from such additional expence, pay no duty at all, is partial in the extreme. If considered in a political view, it will appear no less absurd; it is an effectual bar to the introduction of manufactures into the Highlands, (to the want of
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which are owing the frequent emigrations that take place from that part of the kingdom) and consequently it prevents a number of vessels from being employed in that trade, which, in time of peace, would be a means of supporting many families, and, in case of war, a source of increasing the number of those brave men, to whose intrepidity and courage Great Britain owes her consequence as a maritime power, and her prosperity as a commercial nation.

Wood.—Another inconvenience here, in common with all the Western Isles of Scotland, is the want of wood. This inconvenience, however, may, by due attention, be removed in this island, for it seems to have been once well stocked with trees. Several oak trunks are dug up in the mosses, and some house timber, the natural growth of the island, still remains. Many of the inhabitants remember a good orchard, which produced excellent apples; and the place is still marked by a plane tree, the only one left of six that were there in spring last. About 60 years ago, some ash trees were planted, and a few of them likewise remain, sufficiently large for the common purposes of building and farming utensils *.

Farms

* It is a common opinion, that wood will not thrive in the Western Isles of Scotland. This opinion is ill founded and contradicted by facts. Even in the smaller isles there has been plenty of trees once, as appears from the trunks which are still found in their mosses. Hence there is good reason to believe, that they would still grow, would proprietors persevere in making experiments, beginning on a small scale, and, by degrees, enlarging their plan as they found it become successful. As to the larger islands, there are undeniable proofs, that they formerly abounded with wood; and that the want of it now, is not owing to any thing unfavourable in the soil, climate or situation, but wholly to the negligence of the inhabitants. For, besides the large trees, that are yearly found in their mosses, there are fine sprouts of oak, ash, and other wood, growing in the vallies, or upon the sheltered sides of the hills, which, in winter, are neglected and allowed to be eaten up by the cattle. Were such places inclosed,
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Farms and Inclosures.—The number of farms in Gigha is 15. They pay from 30 l. to 100 l. rent each. All these, except

and care taken to preserve them, there would be a great deal of wood in a few years, with very little expence.

The advantages resulting from such improvements in other places, are universally acknowledged: Much more sensibly would they be felt in remote islands, where at present there is not the smallest twig growing, and where, therefore, the poorer sort of inhabitants are obliged to expose themselves, in trifling open boats, to the hazard of a long and dangerous navigation, in order to purchase, at a dear rate, what, by proper attention, might be raised within the island. On these occasions, they endeavour to make the most of their voyage, by overloading their boats; and, as this kind of cargo does not stow well, there is always too much top weight, which is often attended with fatal consequences; instances of which could be specified. This consideration alone should excite proprietors, to adopt every rational plan, for introducing into these islands an article so much wanted, to render the situation of the inhabitants comfortable, and, indeed, the only thing wanting to render these islands among the most delightful places in the kingdom to visit, or retire to in the summer. Nature furnished this article in great abundance formerly, and still offers to produce it, would people but avail themselves of her bounty, by seconding her efforts. Besides the great advantage of raising trees for domestic uses, and the alteration it would make on these islands in point of beauty, it would be attended with other good effects. By increasing the degree of warmth, it would quicken vegetation; it would also screen the fields from blasting winds; save the corn from shaking; and, in the winter time, afford shelter for cattle.

On places directly exposed to the storms of the Atlantic ocean, it is probable that every attempt to raise trees will prove abortive. But in places sheltered from those storms, they will certainly grow, if care be taken to preserve them from cattle, and to prevent people from destroying them. Instead of one large plantation, several small clumps might be tried; and where they were found to thrive, more might be planted; where they did not, the loss and expence would be less felt. Various kinds of trees should be tried, and different experiments made; such as raising them from the seed, thinning them as they grew up, and transplanting those thus raised at different ages, and into different soils. Where the ground is marshy, or so much exposed that trees will not come to perfection, it might be rendered very valuable by raising fallows, for which there is always a demand for making hoops, creels and baskets; and could
more

except 4, are possessed by two or more tenants, who, instead of occupying each farm in common as formerly, are now beginning not only to divide them from one another by march dikes, but also to subdivide each farm, so that every tenant may have his own share marked out and inclosed. This gives them a true idea of property, promotes emulation, begets a spirit of improvement, and stimulates to industry and exertion. Though averse to such a change at first, they now begin to acknowledge the benefit of it; and the proprietor, who had some trouble, before he could persuade them to adopt this plan, has the satisfaction to find, that those who have tried it, are sensible of its advantages, and mending in their circumstances.—Division of farms naturally leads to inclose them; and this, besides the advantage of securing property, occasions a degree of shelter and warmth, much wanted in islands, where generally the arable land lies along the shore, and is much exposed to the storm. The old practice of raising earthen fences, (which besides the perpetual expence and labour of repairs, are most pernicious to the soil), is gradually going into disuse

more be raised than sufficient to serve the inhabitants, the overplus might be sold to advantage, among the vessels that constantly frequent these islands in the fishing seasons.

If after repeated trials, in low islands, which are much exposed, it be found that trees will not grow, would it be an extravagant plan, to make one or more small inclosures with a stone and lime wall, which might be raised annually in proportion to the growth of the trees, to the height, *at last*, of 20 or 30 feet? Proprietors of such islands, who have handsome fortunes, and reside on their own properties, might, it is presumed, lay out a little money yearly on such a plan, without being considered in the light of projectors. "If the growth of two blades of grass, where only one grew before, renders a man more useful to his country than the whole race of politicians put together," how much greater service does he perform, who, by his attention and public spirit, raises a few trees in those islands, where *not one* is now to be seen?

disuse, and in a short time will be totally abolished. In order to effectuate this, and to introduce the method of building stone fences, men have been brought from other countries, to carry on this useful improvement. Since the year 1788, besides drains *, ditches and hedges, about 1600 fells of dry stone wall have been built : and the same work is still going on with great spirit.

Cultivation and Produce.—They begin plowing about the 1st of February, and work with 4 horses in a plough. The principal proprietor, however, works with only 2 horses, a method which is now becoming general in several parts of the county †. There are 24 ploughs in the island, of which 2 are of the low country kind ; the rest awkward and heavy. Their harrows are all wooden, and generally take 2 horses to drag each of them. The teeth (or wooden pins), which wear fast, must be made long, in order to be driven through to supply the waste ; so that one is at a loss to know which is the

* Great additions may be made to the arable and pasture ground, by draining, and by blasting and clearing away stones; and pains are taken, both by example and advice, to make the inhabitants sensible of the advantages arising from this kind of improvement. Upon the whole, all the improvements which have been carried on since the year 1788, and which have cost upwards of 2000l. Sterling, have contributed greatly to the interest of both the proprietor and the tenants.

† The barbarous practice of working with four horses abreast, which still prevails in some parts of the Highlands, is said never to have obtained here. But another practice, no less barbarous, is sometimes used, though not so common as in other places, that is, tying the harrow to the horse's tail. This is often done to save the expence and trouble of harness, and sometimes to tame young horses, as they term it, which, indeed, it does with a vengeance. For the honour of human nature, as well as from a regard to the safety and ease of that noble animal, to which we are so much indebted for a great share of the pleasures and conveniences of life, it were to be wished that other proprietors would form a resolution, as is now the case in Gigha, to put an effectual stop to such cruelty.

* A merciful man hath compassion on his beast."

the right side ; nor indeed does it make any great difference as to the effect produced, which side is used. Though they neither pulverize the ground nor cover the grain, the people prefer them to iron-pinned harrows, and maintain, that were they to use this latter kind, they could never raise a good crop. Such are the effects of ignorance and prejudice, two powerful enemies to improvement in the Highlands of Scotland *. The produce of the island, consisting of oats, barley and potatoes, is more than sufficient for the maintenance of the inhabitants †. All kitchen stuffs may be raised in great abundance and perfection, the soil being good, and neither moles nor any continuance of frost to counteract the exertions of the gardener. A good quantity of flax is raised yearly, which is spun and sold in yarn, at 2 s. the spindle. Till late-

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ly,

* They begin sowing the latter end of March, and finish their barley seed about the beginning of June. Barley harvest commences the latter end of August ; that of oats near the middle of September ; and the whole is finished about the latter end of October. As there is no intense frost of any continuance, and as the greater part of the arable land is dry, they might begin to plough and sow much earlier, and consequently their harvest would commence sooner. They are at great pains in cleaning their seed corn, and preparing their barley ground, which they plough thrice. They have derived great advantage of late from foreign corn seed and bear, which was introduced by the proprietor.

† The Gigha boll is equal to 20 pecks Linlithgow measure. Last crop sold at 14 s. the boll of oats ; 1 l. 2 s. the boll of barley ; 18 s. 8 d. the boll of meal (10 stone weight) ; 8 s. the boll of potatoes, measuring 4 barrels heaped. Of the barley, 250 bolls (Linlithgow measure) are distilled in the island ; and about 160 bolls, of the same measure, sent to Campbeltown and other places : Of potatoes about 1000 barrels are sent out of the country : Of the meal there will be about 120 bolls bought up from the tenants by the proprietor, for the use of his workmen. Aquavita sells at 14 s. the gallon ; a stone of cheese, 24 lb., costs 5 s. ; a stone of butter 10 s.

ly, there was no hay made in the island; and indeed there is hardly any yet, except what the proprietor makes: but as the people now see, by the great returns he has had, the benefit of inclosures, the improvement of sowing, grafs seeds is likely soon to follow.

Black Cattle and Horses.—The island of Gigha was formerly divided into 30 merks land, to each of which 14 cows and 4 horses were allowed: The same proportion to the island of Cara, consisting of 1 merk land. According to this method of calculation, the number is easily ascertained.

| | M.L. | Cows | Cows | | M.L. | Hors. | Hors. |
|---------------------|------|------|-------------------|-----------------------|------|-------|------------------|
| Gigha, | - | 30 | $\times 14 = 420$ | Gigha, | - | 30 | $\times 4 = 120$ |
| Cara, | - | 1 | $\times 14 = 14$ | Cara, | - | 1 | $\times 4 = 4$ |
| <hr/> | | | | <hr/> | | | |
| Cows in the parish, | - | | 434 | Horses in the parish, | - | | 124 |

The present number, however, of black cattle and horses far exceeds this calculation. The black cattle may be reckoned at least $\frac{1}{4}$ more. Some fat cows are commonly sent to market in the beginning of winter, and draw from 3 l. 15 s. to 5 guineas each. The number of black cattle, small and large, sold annually, will be about 120. Milk cows sell at 4 l. and 5 l.; lean cows, in May, draw from 2 l. 10 s. to 3 l.; heifers from 1 l. 10 s. to 2 l. 12 s. 6 d.; stirks, or year-olds, from 16 s. to 1 l. 1 s. Horses are bought at 3 l. 10 s. and 9 l., according to their age and size. The number of horses annually bought must be very small. As some are yearly sold out of the island, it is probable that the number reared is sufficient for the place.

Sheep and Swine.—The farms in Gigha are rather confined for sheep; and as the common tenants cannot keep them separate

parate from other cattle, they are to sell them off, it being found, that when they are not kept by themselves, they degenerate, and prevent the improvement of black cattle; a thing too much neglected formerly in this place. But by this plan, it is not intended to banish this useful animal from the island altogether. As there are some points of land, forming so many peninsulæ, which can be easily inclosed, it is meant to keep a certain number of a good kind for the convenience of mutton, and the improvement of the finer kind of wool. At present the small highland kind of mutton sells at 7 s. 8 d., lamb at 2 s. 6 d. or 3 s.—A good many swine are reared; but the damage they do among the pasture ground is greater than any advantage they bring. Till such time, therefore, as a proper method of confining and feeding them can be adopted, it were better to banish them altogether, which the proprietor means to do, unless they are kept in a hog fence. They are sold at from 16 s. to 1 l. 4 s. A pig costs from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s. 6 d., according to its age.

Wild Animals, Poultry, &c.—The only destructive animal is a small species of wild cat, which seldom comes near the farm houses, but keeps near the shore and among cairns, where it kills rabbits, of which there are many in the island. Rats and mice are sometimes troublesome. The amphibious animals are seals and otters, but not very numerous.—There being no foxes, polecats, weasels, &c. poultry of all kinds are reared in great plenty. A goose sells at 1 s. 6 d.; a good hen at 6 d.; a chicken at 3 d.; and a dozen of eggs at 2 d. In winter the island is visited by the swan and woodcock; in summer by the swallow, corncrail (or cornrail), and cuckoo. The other birds frequenting it are, wild geese, ducks, and all the species of sea fowl common on the west coast: Pigeons, plovers, ravens, hooded crows, starlings, sparrow hawks, and

jack-daws are very numerous. Of the last there are two kinds; one with a dark blue head, all the rest black; another with red feet, having the body and head black.

Waters.—Though there are neither lakes nor rivers in Gigha, it abounds with excellent water, every farm having one or more spring wells in it. On the west side of the island, two good mills are supplied, all winter and spring, with water collected into a pond from spring wells; but in summer, the pond is made dry for the purpose of cutting peats.—There is a tradition that the country was once nearly depopulated by a plague, all the people dying except those of one farm, called *Ardacba'*, or *High Field*, where there is a spring of water, to the virtue of which was attributed their safety. The water of this well is still reckoned very salubrious, though it has nothing peculiar in taste or colour*.

Caves.—

* It would be unpardonable on this subject not to mention the Well of *Tarbat*, called *Tober-rath Bhuatbaig*, i. e. the *lucky well of Bearbag*; a well famous for having the command of the wind. It is situated at the foot of a hill fronting the N. E. near an isthmus called Tarbat. Six feet above where the water gushes out, there is a heap of stones, which forms a cover to the sacred fount. When a person wished for a fair wind, either to leave the island, or to bring home his absent friends, this part was opened with great solemnity, the stones carefully removed, and the well cleaned with a wooden dish or clam shell. This being done, the water was several times thrown in the direction (or art), from which the wished for wind was to blow, and this action accompanied with a certain form of words, which the person repeated every time he threw the water. When the ceremony was over, the well was again carefully shut up to prevent fatal consequences; it being firmly believed, that, were the place left open, it would occasion a storm, which would overwhelm the whole island. This ceremony of *cleaning the well*, as it is called, is now seldom or never performed; though still there are two old women, of the names Galbreath and Graham, who are said to have the secret, but who have cause to lament the *infidelity of the age*, as they derive little emolument from their profession.



EXPLANATION of the PLATE, fronting page 53.

FIG. I.

Section of UAIGH MHOR, near ARDOCHAN, in GIGHA. See page 53.

FIG. II.

HANGING ROCKS at the entrance of UAIGH MHOR.

FIG. III.

Section of UAIGH NA'N COLAMAN. See page 53.

FIG. IV.

Section of SLOCHD AN LE'M. See page 54.

N. B. These sections are intended to shew the shape or figure of the places; but the proportions cannot be exact, for want of compasses and other instruments.

FIG. V.

Section of SLOC AN TSHRANNAN. See the note, page 54.

FIG. VI.

CARN BAN. See page 55, and the first note, page 56.

- 1.** Coffin, where the bones are covered.
- 2.** Coffin, opened January 2. 1792, and closed again. Nothing found in it.
- 3. 4.** Open coffins, the covers being broken by the people. In these the urns were found.
- 5.** Small coffins.
- 6.** A flag, but no coffin.

N. B.

N. B. One of the men, who wrought at Carn Ban, says, that, being summer time, there was an intolerable stench, on opening these graves, which obliged them to drink spirits, and keep always on the windward side; and that, when they omitted these precautions, they had violent headaches: That the inside of the coffins were covered with a black kind of dust, whence issued the offensive smell: But that they never suspected it had been a burying place, till they found the bones and urns. The whole cairn was full of coffins, some large and some small. On the bottom of the coffin opened by Mr. WILLIAM FRASER, there was a stratum of dark dust, about 3 or 4 inches deep; and the sides and cover were of the same colour; but there was no offensive smell, the weather being frosty when it was opened.

Caves.—There are several caves : The most remarkable are two on the west side of the island near the farm of Ardacha'.—One of them, called *Uaigh Mhor*, or the *Large Cave*, was originally 190 feet long. At present there is only a part of it covered, but so filled up with earth and stones that it is difficult to get into it. This part is 86 feet long, and the rest (which is 104), forms a grand entrance to it, by a hanging rock on the north side, 70 feet high, and by another rising parallel to it, on the south side, equally high*.—At a small distance south of this, is *Uaigh-na'n Colaman*, or *Pigeon's Cave*, (from these birds nestling there). It is about 70 feet long, 30 broad, and 40 high. The end, which, like the other cave, is narrow and dark, is adorned with a beautiful coating of spar, which runs down along the side in large veins, and sometimes in perpendicular tubes. The water which oozes through this substance, and which forms drops of different magnitudes, according to the pores and diameters of the different veins and tubes, has a beautiful appearance with candle light. Here are some plants reckoned useful in certain complaints ; particularly *cneam-na-muc-sia*, i. e. *wild boar's garlic*†, which is used in stomach complaints. Its leaf is beautiful and long, hanging down from the side of the cave. On the 4th of January, when these caves were examined, vegetation was so strong, that the different plants appeared perfectly fresh and vigorous.—At the south end of the island, there is a subterraneous passage 133 feet long, into which the sea runs. About the middle there is an aperture 8 feet long and 2 broad. Near the end there is another, 20 feet long and 4 broad. Round this aperture are large pieces of rock ; one of which having fallen in, and being jammed between the sides, divides it into two, and forms a convenient resting place for taking

* See the plate.

† Or *Hari's Tongue*, according to Mr. Shaw's Dictionary.

taking the depth of the chasm, which is here 22 feet, in the middle 32, and at the mouth about 40. When there is a surf, a perpetual mist issues from these apertures, accompanied with a tremendous noise, which is occasioned by the rolling of large stones, or fragments of the rock that have fallen in, and are constantly kept in motion by the agitation of the water. In time of a westerly storm, being exposed to the great swells from the Atlantic ocean, the sea rushes in with such violence as to discharge itself through these openings with a thundering noise, rising to an immense height, in the form of intermitting jets. Hence its name *Sloc'-an-Leim*, or *Squirting Cave*, literally *Jumping Pit*. The mouth of this cave is only to be seen at low water; and the channel leading to it extends more than 70 feet; so that the whole length is upwards of 200 feet*.

Cairns and Hills.—Within a few yards of *Sloc-an-Lēim* there is a rock, detached from the rest, 36 feet high, 46 long, and 34 broad on the top; it was surrounded with a dry stone-wall, and is called *Carn Leim*, from its vicinity to the chasm already mentioned. The country people say it was a beacon for directing vessels into the harbour of Gigulum sound. About the centre of the island is *Dun Chifi*, or *Keefie's Hill*, which

* North from this at a small distance is another subterraneous passage, called *Sloc-an-Tsibrannan* (pronounced *Slob-an-treman*), i. e. *Snoring Pit*, from the kind of noise it makes. It is about 36 feet long, and the channel which leads to it more than 40. At the end there is a very small opening (not half an inch wide), about which there is a quantity of water always lodged. The condensed air below is forced up by every swell through the small opening, and occasions that bubbling noise in the water, which has occasioned the name. At the mouth of this chasm, where the channel is 17 feet deep, there is a large piece of rock lying across, which occasions a jett here, and the small perforation at the end squirts also in time of storm; so that it is in miniature the same as *Sloc-an-Leim*.—To the east of these chasms there is an appearance of copper ore.

which appears to have been a strong fortification. On the N. W., N. and N. E. sides, there is a steep ascent from 40 to 80 feet. At the top of this ascent, there is a perpendicular rock from 24 to 37 feet high; the rest is inclosed with a dry stone wall, 9-feet thick, and from 8 to 10 feet high. On the east side there is a steep ascent of 38 feet, (seemingly cut out of the rock), leading to the gate, which is four feet wide. In the middle of this Dūn there is an elevation, which commands a view of the place on all sides, and of the country round. It is 120 feet long, and 67 broad. Tradition says that Keefie, the King of Lochlin's son, who occupied this strong hold, was killed there by Diarmad, one of Fingal's heroes, with whose wife he had run away. Within sight of Dūn Chifi, about a mile N. E. there is another beautiful little hill, surrounded with a dry stone wall, and rising in a valley, which happens to be marshy, whence it has its name, *Dunan-an-Tsbeasguin*, (pronounced *Dunan an teasguin*), i. e. the little hill in the marsh. It is a steep rocky ascent, 95 feet long, 55 broad, and 36 high, but level on the top. The gate fronts Dūn Chifi, is 4 feet wide, and the wall 9 feet thick*. At the northern extremity of the island, on the top of a hill, there is a circular heap of stones, called *Carn-na-faire*, or *Watch Cairn*, 53 feet diameter. It seems to have been a place of some strength, and intended, as the name implies, to give the alarm in case of an invasion, for it commands a very extensive view of the sea from S. W. by N. to S. E. About half an English mile south of *Carn-na-faire*, on a plain near the shore, is

Carn-

* North-west from Dun Chifi, about the same distance, and within sight of it, there is a peninsula, which was strongly fortified, and was probably occupied by the same people, to secure their landing or retreat. It is called *Tris* by the inhabitants, which is a corruption of the word *Trench*. At a farm called *Druim-a-Chro*, there is a beautiful earthen mount, 43 feet long, and 41 broad on the top. The sides are a steep ascent, from 24 to 33 feet. The name and intention of it are equally unknown.

Carn-Bàr or *White Cairn**. It is also circular, and measures 50 feet in diameter. From the situation of the place, the convenience of landing, and its vicinity to *Carn-na-faire*, it is likely that there was an engagement near it, and that the bodies of the slain were buried under the cairn. South west of *Càrn Bân*, at a narrow part of the island, called *Tarbat*, there is a large stone on end, known by the name of *Càrr-an-Tarbart*, or *the Pillar of Tarbat*†. It is near 8 feet high, and, from its inclined position, cannot be less than 3 feet under ground to prevent its falling. It was probably set up to mark the grave of some warrior. The common burying place in the island, is called *Cill Chattan*, pronounced *Kill chattan*) i. e. *Cattan's grave*, or burying ground. Here are the ruins of an old chapel, 33 feet long, 14½ broad. At the east end, there is a long narrow window, in the sole of which lies a stone font, neatly cut in an octagonal shape, and perforated in the

* Three years ago several stone coffins were discovered there, by dyke-builders. On opening them they found some urns, one of which is in Mr. Macneill of Gigha's possession, and measures (on the outside) 5½ inches in diameter at top, 2 at the bottom, and 5½ in height, made of clay, hard burnt, and in colour blackish. The coffins, of which there are 4 in the middle of the cairn, are made up of 4 large flags, forming the bottom, sides and cover of each, with a small flag at each end. They lie south and north, and measure about 5 feet in length, 2½ in breadth, and 1½ in depth. Two of these coffins are covered, in one of which are human bones. Besides the large coffin, there were several small ones, of which there is only one left entire. It is 3 feet long, 1½ broad, and 1 deep.

† Any neck of land or isthmus, where boats can be drawn over from one side to the other, is called *Tarbat*, from the two Gaelic words *tarruin*, to draw, and *Bat*, a boat. It is commonly pronounced in Gaelic with an *r* in the last syllable as well as in the first, (i. e.) *Tarbart*. Near the farm houses of *Tarbat* there is an old burying place, where there is a cross, with one of the arms and part of the top broken. It is neatly cut, and measures 6 feet in length, 10 inches in breadth, and 5 inches in thickness. The place is called *Rìgh Chabhal*, i. e. *the King's Chapel*, or *Tomb*.

the centre. It is 2 feet diameter without, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ within, 8 inches deep, and the bottom is 4 inches thick. Near this chapel is *Abadb-a-Gharra*, (pronounced *axa-xagga*) i. e. the field of the pillar, so called from a beautiful plain stone, which stands in the middle of the field, within 140 yards of the chapel. It inclines to the S. W. is $14\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, 3 feet broad, and 8 inches thick at the edges. To support its weight; it must be 3 feet, at least, under ground.*

CARA.

Sea Coast and Birds.—The shore of this island is high and rocky, except at the N. E. end, where the landing place is: The south end, called the Maoil of Cara *, which is the highest part of the island, is a perpendicular rock, measuring 117 feet in height: From the shore to the foundation of this rock there is a steep ascent equal to 50 feet perpendicular, which makes the whole height 167 feet. Here all the different species of sea-fowl nestle in May, which, added to the grand appearance of the rock, forms a delightful view of the sea; and on approaching it, the ear is no less gratified than the eye. The number and variety of notes, which the appearance of any visitor occasions among the birds, together with the mur-

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mur

* North-east of this, at an equal distance from the chapel, is *Cnoc-a-Gharra*, or the hill of the pillar. On the top of this hill there is another stone, 9 feet long, and 3 feet 10 inches in circumference; of the 9 feet, 2 are in the ground. Still farther to the N. E. on a higher hill, there was a cross which fell some years since, and was broken; the 3 stones were in a straight line, but whether they directed to any particular object, or were intended as monuments of the dead, cannot be ascertained.

† *Maoil* adj. signifies *bare* or *bald*, as *Ceann maoil*, *bald-head*. Hence it is applied to exposed points of land or promontories, and then becomes a substantive noun, and is written *maoil* e. g. *maoil* of Kintyre, *maoil* of Galloway, *maoil* of Cara, &c.

mur of the sea and the echo of the rocks, form a concert by no means disagreeable. The *real* game hawk is said to nestle here. This rock has a great deal of iron ore in it; and in one place, which was struck with lightning several years ago, large pieces were thrown down, which seemed to be a mixture of copper and iron.*

Caves, Soil, &c.—Close by this part of the Maoil, there is a cave 40 feet long, 5 broad, and 5 high†. At the end there is a small opening which communicates with another cave, measuring 37 feet in length, 9 in breadth, and 9 in height. This cave is open at the side, which admits a good deal of light, and from the top streams of clear water fall down. The same kind of plants grow here as in the caves of Gigha. The N. E. end abounds with rabbits, where the soil is a mixture of shells, sand, and earth. The rest of the island is mossy, and the greater part might be cultivated, but it is found more profitable to keep it for pasture. There is enough of peats for the inhabitants, and care is taken in cutting them to preserve the

* A person who has lived above 36 years in the island, says, that the rock fell in Autumn 1756: That the night on which it happened, there was a dreadful hurricane, accompanied with thunder and lightning: That the noise of the rock falling was heard, and the shock felt, in their houses: That the sea rose so high against the rocks on the west side of the island, as to be carried over the whole breadth of it in heavy showers: That the houses were all unroofed, and the stacks of corn overset; and that all the people were obliged to extinguish their fires, and take shelter in the only slated house on the island, which fortunately suffered no damage.

† A parcel of goats, belonging to the tacksmen of the island, consider this cave as their inviolable place of residence, and discover no small surprise when strangers visit them. The appearance of these animals, sometimes running in the face of the precipice, and sometimes looking down from the highest pinnacle of the rock, occasions in the spectator's breast a mixture of pleasure and pain, which is more easily felt than described.

the surface, and lay it down regularly after the peats are taken away, by which means the pasture ground is not diminished. The tacksmen has one plough and one cart. His house is slated, and consists of two storeys and garrets. It was built 60 years ago, and is still in tolerable good condition. Adjoining to the house there is an old chapel, (26 feet long, and proportionally broad) with a Gothick arched door on the north side. This was formerly a burying place, and is now converted into a *kitchen*. Wild spinage and water cresses abound here, as well as in Gigha.

GIGHA and CARA.

Population.—All the inhabitants of both islands are Protestants of the established church of Scotland. The majority of them are of the names of Galbreath and M'Neill. The former are reckoned the more ancient, and said to have been originally a tall race of men. At present there is nothing uncommon in their stature. Tradition says, that there never was an instance of a shipwreck where three of them were aboard. The *Galbreaths**, in the Gaelic language, are called *Breatanuich*, or *Clann a Bbreatanuich*, i.e. *Britons*, or the *Children of the Briton*, and were once reckoned a great name in Scotland, according to the following lines :

“ Breatanuich, o'n Talla dhearg †

“ Uailfe fir Alba do Shhoinneadh.

That is, “ Galbreaths from the Red Tower †

“ Noblest of Scottish surnames.”

The

* Galbreath is a corruption of two Gaelic words *Gall Bbreatan*, i.e. the *Strange Briton*, or *Low Country Briton*.

† This *Talla dhearg*, or *Red Tower*, is probably *Dumbarton* (in Gaelic *Dun-Bbreatain*, i.e. the *Hill of the Britons*, whence, it is said, the first Galbreaths came to Gigha.

The population of both islands has increased nearly one sixth within these 40 years. By a list made out in January 1792, the number of souls was found to be 614, which is exactly 100 more, than the return to Dr. Webster in 1755. Of this increase, nearly one half has taken place within the last 5 years, as by an enumeration taken in 1787, the number was 572, which makes an increase of 42, or above 8 *per annum* within that period. The following tables will exhibit a view of the different sexes, ages, conditions and professions of the people in both islands.

TABLE I. *Shewing the proportion of the Sexes.*

| | Males. | Females. | Total. | Majority. |
|-------------|--------|----------|--------|-----------|
| In Gigha, - | 304 | 288 | 592 | 16 males. |
| In Cara, - | 11 | 11 | 22 | 0 |
| Total, - | 315 | 299 | 614 | 16 |

TABLE II *. *Proportion of Single and Married People.*

| In Gigha. Cara. Parish. | | | In Gigha. Cara. Parish. | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|------------|-------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Males, - | 304 | + 11 = 315 | Females, - | 288 | + 11 = 299 |
| Married, - | 82 | + 3 = 85 | Married, - | 82 | + 3 = 85 |
| Unmarried, 222 | + 8 = 230 | | Unmarried, 206 | + 8 = 214 | |
| Widowers, - | 7 | + 1 = 8 | Widows, - | 31 | + 0 = 31 |
| Single, - | 215 | + 7 = 222 | Single, - | 175 | + 8 = 183 |

TABLE

* Add the single of both sexes in tb's table, and subtract all under 20 years in the following table; the remainder is the number fit for marriage, excluding widowers and widows: e.g.

| | M. | F. | M. & F. |
|---|-----|-------|---------|
| Single, - - - - | 222 | + 183 | = 405 |
| Under 20 years, - - - | 159 | + 149 | = 308 |
| Number of males and females fit for marriage, - | 97 | | |

TABLE III. *Ages of the Inhabitants.*

| Inhabitants of Gigh. Cara. Parish. | | |
|------------------------------------|---|------------|
| Under 10 years of age, | - | 148+11=159 |
| Between 10 and 20, | - | 146+ 3=149 |
| — 20 and 30, | - | 199+ 7=206 |
| — 30 and 40, | - | 83+ 1= 84 |
| — 40 and 50, | - | 16+ 0= 16 |
| Total, | - | 592+22=614 |

TABLE IV. *Proportion of Children, Families and Farms.*

| Gigh. Ca. Par. Children. | | |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Children *, | - | 351+12=363 |
| | | — = 3 average number in each family, |
| Heads of Families, | - | 104+ 3=107 |
| Children (as above), | - | 351+22=363 |
| | | — = 22 average number in each farm. |
| Number of farms, | - | 15+ 1= 16 |

TABLE V. *Number of Births, Marriages and Deaths.*

| Years. | Births. | Marriages. | Deaths †. |
|-----------------|---------|------------|-----------|
| 1787 | 16 | 3 | |
| 1788 | 17 | 3 | |
| 1789 | 24 | 3 | |
| 1790 | 24 | 4 | |
| 1791 | 24 | 4 | |
| Total, | - 105 | 17 | 52 |
| Annual average, | - 21 | 3 | 10 |

TABLE

* The difference of the children's ages, in every family, is two years, with very few exceptions.—There are three instances of twins in these islands.

† There is no register of deaths kept in the parish, but the number of grown up people who died in the course of the last 3 years, is 26, of whom 6 were drowned. The number of children who died within the same period is also 26; in all 52.

TABLE VI. *Professions of the Inhabitants* *.

| | In Gigha. | Cara. | In the whole parish. |
|-------------|-----------|-------|----------------------|
| Farmers, | - 16 | + 1 | = 17 |
| Crofters†, | - 20 | + 0 | = 20 |
| Cottagers†, | - 51 | + 2 | = 53 |

Fishermen ‡.

| | | |
|---|---|----|
| At the herring fishing last season on the coast of Ireland, | - | 16 |
| At ditto on the North Highland coast, about | - | 44 |
| Sailors aboard the navy last war, | • | 5 |

Handycraftsmen.

* There is no physician, surgeon, or apothecary in the parish, nor any to be got nearer than Campbeltown. Although these two islands are uncommonly healthy, and free from epidemical disorders, yet the want of a surgeon is sometimes felt in accidental cases. Medical assistance, is the only thing wanting, to render the island of *Gigha*, a most agreeable place to reside in. As there are good harbours and landing places on the east side of the island, there is easy access to it at all times, but the want of a quay, and proper accommodation on the mainland opposite to it, (as formerly taken notice of,) renders the communication difficult in the winter season. Were this inconvenience removed, the other would be less felt, as medical aid, in urgent cases, could at any time be got from Campbeltown. The winter, however, is so mild, that there is almost a constant vegetation; and in summer the beautiful situation of the place, the salubrity of air, and the variety of creeks and sandy bays, render it one of the finest bathing places in the West Highlands.

†† A crofter has a plot of ground, for rearing a small crop and keeping a milk cow, and pays a yearly rent according to the value and extent of the ground. A cottager has only a house, garden and potatoe ground, for which he pays a small rent.

‡ Those employed at the herring fishing, receive from a guinea to 30 s. per month for wages. The number of vessels and small boats belonging to both islands is as follows: 6 sloops, from 8 to 15 tons burden; 1 ditto of 44 tons; 1 ditto of 69; 1 ditto of 74 registered tonnage; and 24 small boats.

*Handycraftsmen &c.**

| | | | |
|----------------|---|--------------------|---|
| Weavers, - | 5 | Boat Carpenters, - | 4 |
| Apprentices, - | 3 | Masons, - | 1 |
| Tailors, - | 4 | Distillers, - | 1 |
| Shoemakers, - | 2 | Inn-keepers, - | 2 |
| Millers, - | 1 | Fiddlers, - | 1 |
| Blacksmiths, - | 1 | Pipers, - | 2 |

Proprietors and Rent.—The island and barony of Gigha, consisting of 30 merk land of old extent, holds of the Duke of Argyll for the yearly payment of 400 merks Scotch of feu-duty; five-sixths of the island, (including the farm of Airdglamy, which pays a feu-duty to Mr. M'Neill, who has an intermediate superiority over it) belong to Mr. M'Neill of Gigha, and the remaining sixth to Mr. M'Neill of Gallachoullie. The valued rent of the whole is 127l. 5s. 1d. Sterling. The real rent cannot exactly be ascertained, as there is a part of the lands in the proprietor's hands, but it is believed it may be above 700l. The island of Cara is the property of Mr. M'Donald of Leargie, and is occupied as a farm by one man. The valued rent is 6l. 10s. 5d. Sterling; the real rent, including public burdens, 35l. Sterling.

Ecclesiastical State.—Gigha and Cara are said to have been a part of the parish of Jura and Colonsay, and also of the parish

* The common wages of men labourers are 8d. a day, summer and winter. A ploughman is hired from December to the end of May, at 2l. 10s. besides two pair of shoes, planting of two pecks of potatoes, sowing of a pint of flax-seed, and maintenance. A man servant is hired from the latter end of August till the harvest is finished at about 2l. 15s. with a pair of shoes and his maintenance; a maid servant for the same time gets 1l. 10s. with shoes and maintenance; common men servants are hired at the rate of 4l. 10s. a year, and maintained; maid servants at 2l. 10s. with maintenance, shoes, and flax-seed sowing; herd boys from 15s. to 20s.; a taylor works for 8d. a day, and maintenance; a shoemaker gets 1s. for making a pair of shoes in his own house, and 6d. when maintained.

rish of Killearn, in Kintyre; but when they were disjoined from either is uncertain. The stipend is paid partly in victual and partly in money, viz. 20 bolls of barley, 40 bolls of meal, and 35 l. Sterling in money, besides a glebe, and allowance for a manse. There is a good church, but no manse, the late incumbent having been translated to another parish at the time it was to have been built. The parish is vacant at present, by the translation of Mr. Dugald M'Dougal to the parish of Lochgoilhead*. The Duke of Argyll and Mr M'Neill of Gigha are patrons.

School and Poor.—The number of children at school is 55 boys and 10 girls, in all 65. Most of them are taught gratis; 8 of them are learning arithmetic, 32 reading English, and the rest beginners. The schoolmaster has a free house, garden, and cows grass, with 100 merks salary from the parish; and he gets 7 l. Sterling from the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge. Of the inhabitants there are 3 lame, 3 blind, 4 sickly, and 1 an idiot. These, with a few old infirm persons, are on the poors list, and get as much help from the session as the funds admit of; but they are chiefly supported by the residing heritor and the inhabitants. The collection at the church

* Mr. M'Dougal was admitted in October 1784; and on giving in his dismission in November 1789, Mr. Samuel Peat, a native of the Low Country, was presented to the parish. This gentleman, not submitting to be examined by the presbytery of Kintyre on the Gaelic language, a piece of trial which they thought necessary before his admission to a Highland charge; and appealing from them to the synod of Argyll, and afterwards from the synod to the General Assembly; it was found requisite, that an ordained clergyman should be appointed in the meantime, to supply the parish, as their insular situation rendered it peculiarly hard to be so long without a minister to dispense the ordinances of religion among them. Accordingly, in October last (1791), the writer of this report came to this island, where he continues to officiate as interim minister, with a salary of 40 l. a year from the synod of Argyll.

church does not amount to much yearly, and therefore is not an adequate fund for the support of the poor*.

Language.—The language of the common people is Gaelic, but not reckoned the purest, on account of their vicinity to Ireland, and intercourse with the low country, by which many corruptions have been introduced into their phraseology. They understand English, and several speak it well enough to transact business; but very few of them can understand a connected discourse in that language. It may not be improper here to observe, that in *Gaelic* the letters *C* and *G* sound always hard; *ch* like the Greek χ ; *bb*, and *mb* like *v*; *db* and *gb* like *y*, in the beginning of a word. By attending to this, one who is a stranger to the Gaelic language, can more easily understand what follows, as well as what was formerly observed respecting the origin of the name of Gigha. Most of the other names are also Gaelic, and compounded of some of the following words, which are expressive of the nature, situation, or appearance of the places.

Ach', Achä', or Achädh, a field, as *Acha' mör*, large field.

Ard, High; as *Ard Achädb*, high field.

Aird, Height; as *Aird Glamie*, i. e. Height Point, or promontory of *Glamie*, from a rock called *Glamie*.

Ceann, Head; as *Ceann tire*, i. e. Head land, now corrupted into *Kintyre*.

VOL. VIII.

I

Ceann-

* During the scarcity in 1782-3, barley meal sold at 1s. 6d. the peck (10lb. dutch weight). Oat-meal was very scarce, and while it lasted sold at 2s. Potatoes at 1s. the peck. With the help of their fish and milk they were better off than the people on the main land, and bought little. Though the grain was poorer that year than usual, there would have been no scarcity of meal, had the farmers kept all their barley; but before they were aware of the scarcity of provisions, they malted and sold off a great part of it. They were, however, very favourably dealt with by the proprietors, as well as the poor in general.

Ceann-ear-thir-each, pronounced Kēān-ēr-īr-äch, i. e. *East-Head-land*, the N. E. end of Gigha, so called.

Cārn, heap of stones.

Cārr, Carradh, a pillar or one stone on end.

Inflected case, *Cbarra*.

Cnóc or *Cnóchd*, a hill not fortified. *Cnóc-a-Cbarra*, Hill of the pillar. *Cnócbd-na-Croich*, Cross-hill.

Crō, a small inclosure, a park.

Druim, back ridge of a hill. *Druim Cbro*, the height or ridge of inclosures (or of parks).

Dūn, a fortified hill, and *Dūnan*, a little fortified hill.

Fāire, a watch; as *Cārn-na-Fāire*, watch cairn.

Garbh, (garv) rough, rugged. *Garbb-Eilean*, rough island; 2 peninsulas so called, and very expressive of their appearance and surface.

Meadhan, middle, pronounced (mēa'-ān).

Nes-Nis, (Danish) a point going out in the sea.

Aird-meadhan-nis, the name of a place near the middle of the island, where there is a rising ground, opposite to which there is a ness, or point, that runs out about a mile N. E. into the sea.

Tōrr, a tower or a heap of stones.

Tr, a tower

Ard-tūr-nis, High Tower Point.

Ua'-Uaigh, a cave or a grave,

Sloc-Slocbd, a chasm or pit.

Sea/g, bog-reed, hence *Sea/g'onnn*, a marsh, compounded of *Sea/g*, reed, and *fonn*, land.

Gigulum, origin unknown.

View.—Nothing can exceed the view from Gigha in variety or grandeur. On the E. the fertile coast of Kintyre (overtopped in some places by the hills of Arran and Cowal), terminates

minates the prospect ; on the S. the Maoil of Kintyre and the coast of Ireland, extending (past Bathlin) to the point of Derry ; on the W. the island of Ilay and the main ocean ; and on the N. the islands of Jura, Scarba, Dana, and the coast of Knapdale, with the hills of Mull appearing behind. The pleasure arising from this view is greatly heightened, by the number and variety of ships and small vessels, which constantly sail in different directions, and at different distances. And in stormy, dark weather, when deprived of this enchanting prospect, the loss is amply made up to the admirer of nature, by observing the raging ocean discharge its fury against the rock, whilst “ list’ning with pleasing dread to its deep roar.”

Character.—The people are honest and inoffensive, willing to oblige, and ready, by every exertion, to relieve the distress of seafaring men. They are, upon the whole, in a thriving condition, content with their situation, and greatly attached to their native country. The suppression of private stills, (which are as unfriendly to the industry and morals of a people, as they are pernicious to their health), has been attended with happy effects. They are now less addicted to *dram-drinking*, and more attentive to their business ; though still they are not so industrious as could be wished. This, however, is owing to causes, which it is not in their power wholly to remove.

Disadvantages.—Division of labour, which is the highest improvement in society, has not yet been carried such a length, as to entitle the people of Gigha to the character of being industrious. The farmer, accustomed to a certain mode of labouring for the support of his family, never attempts any greater exertion, while this object is accomplished. There is no market at hand, where ready money can be got for the produce of the ground ; and therefore no incitement to raise

a greater quantity, than serves for family consumption and payment of the rent. Thus, every person endeavours to supply himself; and as he does not receive ready money for the produce of his own labour, he cannot advance it for that of others. Hence he cannot apply his whole attention to his own profession. One part of the day is employed about his farm; another part allotted for the fishing, in order to supply the immediate wants of the family. In like manner, the shoemaker, smith, taylor, and other handicraftsmen, cannot bestow their whole time on their different professions. They have families to support; and their employment is not so constant, or the returns for their labour so punctual, as to enable them to devote their whole time to their respective lines of business. It is necessary, therefore, to have a spot of ground: this spot must be attended to; and the possessor thinks it more for his interest to labour it himself, than to employ another. Besides, the fishing must be attended to, as mentioned above; for no man thinks of making a profession of *fishing* which is open to every one: And again, no man will think of purchasing with money what any one can have by going for it. All these circumstances operate in preventing industry and improvement. That this may not appear contradictory, it must be observed, that the time usually spent, every day, in the intervals between these different occupations, is nearly equal to the actual time of labour; and therefore, though it cannot justly be said, that they are addicted to idleness more than others, it may with propriety be affirmed, that they are not industrious. In this sense, all the inhabitants of the Western Isles, being in similar circumstances, are chargeable with want of industry. And people who are not well acquainted with their peculiar situation, and who form an opinion of their character, in this respect, by a comparison with the inhabitants of the Low Country, may rashly conclude

conclude, that it is natural for them to be lazy and indolent. But nothing can be more unfair than to judge of them in this way, by a comparison with people accustomed all their life to a proper division of labour, and regular markets for vending and purchasing the produce of their industry. Therefore, the reasons commonly assigned for their inactivity are quite erroneous. It is not a natural disposition to be idle, but the want of encouragement and regular employment, that checks the industry of the Highlanders. It is well known, that, when habituated to any line of life, they are found careful, active and enterprising.

Proposed Improvements.—Were the labour and industry of such a number of able men, as are in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, properly directed and encouraged, the effects, would, in a short time, be sensibly felt by the nation at large. The most valuable discoveries might be made; inexhaustible magazines and materials for every branch of manufacture might be found out; and the exertions and inventions of a great part of the kingdom, which are now lying dormant, might, happily for themselves and society, be thus brought into action. The most effectual means of bringing about such a change seems to be, the lessening and regulating the present duties on salt and coals; the erection of towns or villages; and opening canals. The attempts that have already been made in erecting villages, will certainly be attended with good effects; and if the number were increased, these good effects would be multiplied. By a canal through the isthmus at Crianan, the navigation between the Western Isles and Clyde would be rendered safe, easy, and expeditious, at all seasons of the year. By another canal between Inverness and Fort William, a direct communication would be opened from the west to the east coast of Scotland, which would be
not

not only of infinite mutual advantage to both these districts of the kingdom, but to the commercial interests of England and Ireland *.—All these plans, if carried into execution, would stir up a spirit of commerce and enterprise, in all the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, which would be soon followed by the introduction of arts and manufactures. Then, every useful hand would find sufficient employment at home; and the idea of property and independence would stimulate to labour and industry. Then, those places, which are now in a great measure considered as of no national consequence, would become the sources of wealth and strength; and instead of appearing as so many barren rocks in the map of our country, would prove some of the brightest ornaments in the crown of Great Britain.

* This, however, could only happen, in case the canal were on such a large scale, as to admit vessels of considerable burthen.

NUMBER IV.

PARISH OF LADYKIRK.

(County of Berwick—Presbytery of Chirnside—Synod of Merse
and Tiviotdale.)

By the Rev. MR. THOMAS MILL.

Name, Situation, Extent, and Soil.

THE ancient name of this parish was *Upsettingtown*, which James IV. changed to Ladykirk, after having built a handsome church in it, which he dedicated to the Virgin Mary. It was within this church, that the supplemental treaty, to that of *Chateau Cambresis*, was concluded between the English and Scots Commissioners, and the duplicates were exchanged the same day at Norham. On Holywell haugh, opposite to Norham Castle, Edward I. and several of the Scottish nobility met, to settle the dispute betwixt Bruce and Baliol, relative to the succession to the Crown of Scotland. This parish lies along the banks of the Tweed, is 2½ miles long and one broad, and contains about 3500 English statute acres. The country is flat, and interspersed with a few rising grounds. The soil in general is very good, and consists of a deep loam. in some places gravelly, and in others on a clay bottom. It is all capable of bearing good crops, with judicious cultivation: some of the outfields were formerly infested with whins and some heath, both of which have long ago been totally eradicated.

Agriculture.

Agriculture.—The husbandry on both sides of the Tweed, is, in general, conducted with judgment and spirit: To give a particular detail of the practice would much exceed the bounds of this report, but as the tenants in a great measure depend on their live stock, and of course on the condition in which it is kept, they pay very particular attention to their grass lands, and the manner in which they are laid down, as it is found that the grass of land, in high condition, will not only keep a much heavier stock, but will fatten it much sooner, than the grass which we too frequently see growing on good lands, in many parts of the kingdom, under bad management*.

Sheep.—The sheep, in general, are very good, and are of that kind commonly known by the name of the new Leicestershire breed, which were first introduced into Leicestershire by Mr. Bakewell; they are found, in point of profit, far to excel any other kind of sheep in this country. The wethers after having been twice shorn, at 26 months old, or so, weigh from 20 to 28 lb. per quarter; and the ewes, when fattened, from 19 to 26 lb. Three fleeces and a half commonly make a stone

* The grass seeds are sowed with the first crop, after turnips or fallow, instead of the fourth or fifth crop, which was the practice about 30 or 40 years ago; and the succeeding corn crops are taken after the grass is plowed up. By these means there are no corn crops lost; and the grass has the benefit of the fallow and the manure, and throws up great crops, when compared with exhausted lands, which are commonly full of *couch* and other noxious weeds. Harvest generally begins about the 20th of August, and ends in September. The grass lands remain in pasturage from 2 to 5 years, when they are broken up for oats.—The English plough, with the feathered sock, is the only one used here. It is drawn by a pair of horses, and managed by one man. Oxen were formerly more used; but from their inability to drive manure and coals from any distance, and the slowness of their step, they have fallen into disrepute, excepting for home work, which they are exceedingly well calculated to answer.

stone of wool, which sells from 15s. to 18s. per stone, and goes into Yorkshire to be manufactured, excepting a small quantity which is sent to Aberdeenshire. This breed of sheep are uncommonly good feeders, but often do not carry so much tallow as many other kinds do, in proportion to their weight. Mr. Culley has undoubtedly the merit of having first introduced this breed of sheep into the country, about 20 years ago or more; and at present there are 8 or 9 people in the district of country betwixt the Cheviot and Lammermuir-hills, whose sheep stock are very highly improved. The sheep of the low part of the country are all of this kind, and are found the more profitable the oftener that they have been crossed by the best breeds. The number of them, as well as of the horses and black cattle, depends so much upon the state of the lands in different years, whether in corn or in pasturage, that it is almost impossible to give an exact account of them: In general, there may be from 1500 to 2500 sheep in the parish. The sheep formerly in this country, called *Muggs*, were a tender, slow feeding animal, with wool over most of their faces, from whence the name of *Muggs*. There is hardly an individual of this species now to be met with in the neighbourhood. Mr. Culley's kind of sheep, on the other hand, have open countenances, without any wool on the face from the ears forward, and are as kindly feeders as the others are slow ones. They are neither long bodied, nor long legged, but well made, handsome sheep, deep in their chest, broad at their shoulders, loins, and crops, which last are thrown well back; and they are deep and broad of their breasts, which are well seen before; and stand on well proportioned, clean, small boned legs. Mr. Culley's stock is almost entirely sprung from Mr. Bakewell's, as he wisely perceived that Mr. Bakewell was in the right tract of breeding, long before most people would allow it.

Black Cattle and Horses.—The black cattle here are of the short-horned breed, and from the attention now paid to them, it is probable, that they will be brought to a great degree of perfection. The steers of the best kind of this breed, when 3 years old, and fat, will weigh from 60 to 75 stone (of 14lb. to the stone), and if kept to a proper age, will weigh from 85 to 110 stone; some individuals may even weigh a great deal more. It may, perhaps, be proper to mention, that it is not large sheep and cattle, that the farmers here wish to breed; it is the small, well shaped, kindly sort, that will raise most money in a given time, from a given quantity of grass, turnips, or other food. The cows give from 16 to 24 English quarts of milk in the day; some cows may give a great deal more, but such are only exceptions from the major part. When properly fattened, the cows will weigh from 50 to 80 stone. There are, in general, from 250 to 300 black cattle, and from 70 to 90 horses in the parish.

Fish and Birds, &c.—The river Tweed abounds with salmon, trouts, eels, &c. The salmon fisheries let here from 50l. to 100l. a year; nearer Berwick they increase very much in value. The salmon are all sent to the London market, where they bring great prices. There is plenty of game, as partridges, hares, &c.; and in the winter, woodcocks, and sometimes woodpeckers appear. In the spring, wild geese frequent the country. Goosanders, wigeons, and cormorants, resort to the Tweed in severe winters, and sometimes grebes, and speckled divers; and in the lakes there are numbers of mallards and teals.

Population.—The inhabitants have increased considerably within these 40 years. The return to Dr. Webster in 1755 was only 386. There are now from 580 to 600. Two years

ago the number amounted to 534, and it has increased considerably since that period. The people are mostly employed in husbandry, in raising grain to supply less fertile countries, and in feeding live stock, which are sent commonly to Newcastle, Shields, and Sunderland.

Stipend, Rent, Wages, and Prices of Provisions.—The minister's stipend is 800 l. Scotch, or 66 l. 13 s. 4 d. Sterling. The rents of this parish are from 14 s. to 30 s. the English acre. The farms let at from 300 l. to 600 l. a-year, and the tenants are for the most part rich and prosperous. A hind's wages are from 14 l. to 16 l. per annum. The price of beef and mutton in this country, after midsummer, is about 3 d. in winter 3½ d. and in the spring from 4 d. to 5 d. per lb. but the prices are mostly regulated by the demands from the Morpeth markets.

NUMBER V.

PARISH OF DOUGLAS.

(County and Presbytery of Lanark—Synod of Glasgow and
Ayr.)

By the Rev. Mr. WILLIAM M'CUBBIN.

Origin of the Name.

THE account of it given by Mr. Hume of Godscroft, is, that in the reign of Solvathius king of Scotland, about the year 767, one Donald Bain (*i. e.* the white or fair), aspired after the crown, gave the king battle, and had almost gained the victory, when a certain nobleman, with his sons and followers, came to the king's aid, and behaved with such courage and resolution, that Donald's army was defeated, and he himself slain. The king, anxious to know to whom he was so much indebted, and the nobleman being present, one of his lieutenants, pointing to him with his finger, said, *Sholro Duglassi, i. e.* "Behold yonder black grey man." Upon which the king gave him much land, and the surname of Douglas, which his posterity still retain; and from him too, the parish, as well as the town, castle and river, derive their names. Others say, that the river Douglas, which runs through the parish, gives name to the town and the noble family to whom the parish belongs. The name is doubtless of Gaelic original, and signifies *Black Water*, which is an exceeding proper appellation for the river, as it is black, having its source and all its supplies from a mossy country*.

* There are other streams in Scotland, distinguished by the name of Douglas.

Situation, Extent, Soil and Climate.—The extent of the parish is considerable, being about 12 miles long, and in some places from 4 to 6, in others from 6 to 7 broad. The parish is situated, about 40 miles from the sea, every way. The soil is variable, except the holms, which being a new soil formed by the river, is pretty uniform; but the ground on either side is very spouty, occasioned in some places by the *outbursts* of the coal and other minerals; but in most places by the bottom being a cold wet till. The lands are mostly laid out in sheep farms. In the strath, and along the banks of the river, there are several arable farms; but the lands occupied in this manner, bear small proportion, to what are laid out in sheep walks. Their pasture is hilly, though not very high; and is both green and heathy. The air is very moist, particularly in spring and autumn. The winds generally blow impetuously about the time of the equinox, and frequently in autumn shake a deal of corn. They blow mostly from the S. W., which being the direction of the river, and the banks high on each side, what would be accounted a moderate breeze in other places, is here often a kind of hurricane. It is however a very healthy place; and there are in it many instances of longevity. Many have exceeded 80 and 90 during the incumbency of the present minister. There are 2 men in the parish at present aged 92; and it is well authenticated, that a man died here, in the beginning of this century, aged at least 110, having lived during a part of 3 centuries.

Woods and Rivers.—There is very little natural wood in this parish, and that only a kind of brush. The ash appears to have been the favourite tree of our ancestors. At many of the old farm steads, there are large ash trees; and at the Castle of Douglas there is a row of very aged ones, which, tradition says, were used in barbarous times for hanging their enemies,

enemies, the English. There is also some planting about it of a later date. Lord Douglas, upwards of 20 years ago, planted about 300 acres: and within these last 10 or 11 years, above 800 acres more, with oaks, elms, beech, planes, ashes, and firs of different kinds; which in a few years will have a fine effect to beautify and shelter this part of the country. Some hundred acres more are yet to be planted to complete the plan. The most considerable river in the parish is Douglas, which takes its rise at the foot of Cairn Table, 9 miles above the town, and runs into the Clyde about 7 miles below it. There are 3 smaller waters in the upper part of the parish, which all run into Douglas; namely, Gleispine, Kinnocks, and Monks. All these waters abound with excellent trout; and in some parts of the water of Douglas there are very fine pike.

Minerals.—This parish abounds in coal, which will be inexhaustible for many centuries. There are many different seams from 2 to 7 feet in height. The decline of the minerals is various. At the march with the parish of Carmichael, about 1 of 3; $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile to the westward, 1 of 2; and a little more west, 1 of $1\frac{1}{2}$. The stretch of the coal is nearly parallel to the course of the river, which runs from S. W. to N. E. The most remarkable circumstance, that attends these coals, is, their being intersected with a great number of steps, which throw the coal down from 30 to 50 feet perpendicular. These steps are from 60 to 200 yards separate, and lie nearly parallel. They cross the stretch of the coals in a direction nearly west. Coal is the principal fuel here. As one tacksmen rents the coal both in this estate, and in the estate of Carmichael, the property of the Earl of Hyndford (through which estate the same seams of coal stretch), the demand from either of the works is very irregular and uncertain, being regulated

gulated by the superior quality of either work for the time, and by the caprice of the purchasers. But for 20 years past, the annual produce on both estates has been from 50,000 to 70,000 loads of $2\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. Taking the medium 60,000 loads, at 5d. *per* load, at the heugh, the produce in money is 1250l. The coal heugh, about 3 miles above the town of Douglas, is by most people thought the best coal. There is plenty of lime and free-stone here.

Rent.—The holm and croft land let at from 15s. to 20s. *per* acre; the field land from 5s. to 2s. according to the quality; the best land near the town from 30s. to 40s.; nay, some land in Lord Douglas's parks, after lying in lee for a number of years, has been let for two crops at 3l. 3s. *per* acre. Arable farms let at from 40l. to 100l.; sheep farms from 50l. to 200l.

Agriculture and Produce.—Oats are the prevailing and almost only grain sown here; the most extensive farmers not sowing more than 3 or 4 acres of bear, with from 2 to 3 of early grey pease, and some potatoes. It is not owing to prejudice, but necessity, that the people have adopted this mode of farming; long experience having shewn them, that oats are the crop that can be most depended on. And indeed, such is the severity of the seasons in this country, that very frequently the bear and pease are destroyed by the frost before they come to maturity: And though oats are a more hardy grain, they are stinted in their growth by the cold, and, in particular late seasons, rendered in a great manner useless, both for man and beast. In the year 1782, there was not a boll of tolerable oat-meal produced in the parish. There was neither bear nor pease; and the oat-meal was little better than the dust of other years; and very little of it. Great quantities of white
pease-

pease-meal were imported from Leith, and oat-meal from Annandale and Nithsdale; and the tenants were obliged to purchase their seed corn for the ensuing year, at Leith, and in Tweeddale, Nithsdale and Annandale. The quantity sown on the acre is about 6 Winchester bushels; and the average produce of the whole farm, from 18 to 24. The boll, or 6 bushels of oats, gives, *communibus annis*, 6 stones of meal; but in calamitous seasons, it has been known to give only from 3 to 3½, and of very bad quality. The Blainley or Tweeddale oats are most commonly sown here. An early species, called *barley oats*, has been introduced by some farmers; but this grain is very liable to shed, or shake, before it is ripe, especially in this country, where the winds blow very high. Besides, these oats afford little straw, and that of a worse quality than the Tweeddale; and straw is the principal fodder for horses and cattle here. The greatest part of this parish seems better adapted for grazing than tillage, and would probably turn out to greater advantage that way; for servants wages are greatly advanced*, and the return in corn being so very small, little profit can arise from an arable farm. The frosts are seldom off, nor do the lands acquire a sufficient dryness for sowing, before the 24th of March; and it is usually near the end of September before the harvest be general. The corns are rarely got in, sooner than the end of October, or first week of November. There are 40 ploughs and 133 carts in the parish.

Sheep, Horses, &c.—The sheep in this parish are the black-faced short Scotch sheep, and superior to those in the neighbouring

* A farm servant was hired 20 years ago for 5 l. a year, and a maid servant for 2 l. 10 s.: Now a good man servant cannot be had under from 7 l. to 10 l. and a maid from 3 l. to 4 l. Day labourers were 10 d., and the highest 1 s.; now they are 14 d. and 16 d.

bouring parishes. They weigh, when fat, from 7 to 10 lb. *per* quarter, Dutch ; have from 4 to 6, or even 8 lb. of tallow, tron : their wool gives from 4s. to 5s. 6d. *per* stone, from 4 to 6 fleeces to a stone.—All the store-masters of this parish got the premiums at Lanark for tups, as long as the regulations would permit them.—There are between 13,000 and 14,000 sheep ; about 200 horses, and 800 black cattle in the whole parish, besides what Lord Douglas has in his parks.

Roads.—This parish, is in the centre of the great roads, from Glasgow to England, and from Edinburgh to Ayr. About 18 years ago, Lord Douglas, at his own expence, made near 30 miles of the one, and 20 of the other. The statute work, which is at present exacted in kind from the tenants, is applied to keep them in repair, but is a very inconsiderable part of what is necessary for that purpose. There are toll bars on the roads, to which the people are now reconciled, but were greatly averse to at their erection.

Manufactures.—No manufactures were established in the parish, till this year, that a company from Glasgow, consisting of natives of Douglas, and men of industry and intelligence, fitted up a small cotton spinning and weaving work, in the town of Douglas. The carding is performed by horses, and the spinning by hand jeannies. Another respectable company, mostly belonging to this place, have erected a small carding and spinning mill on the lands of Carmacoup, 3 miles above the town, which already gives employment to a good number of hands. They are both in their infancy, but there is no doubt of their succeeding.

Population.—The population is now upon the increase, and bids fair to continue so, though there has been, on the whole, a decrease within these 40 years.

POPULATION TABLE of the Parish of DOUGLAS.

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|-----|------|
| Population in the year 1755, | 2009 | Number of widowers, | - | 32 |
| — — — — — anno 1791, | - 1715 | — — — — — of widows, | - - | 22 |
| Decrease | - - - 294 | — — — — — of Members of the Estab- | | |
| Average of births from 1700 to | | — — — — — blished Church, | | 1672 |
| 1710, | - - - 43½ | — — — — — of Antiburgher Seceders, | | 3 |
| — 1750 to 1760, | - 56½ | — — — — — of Cameronians, | - | 40 |
| — 1782 to 1792, | - 50 | — — — — — of clergymen, | - | 2 |
| Inhabitants in the town of Dou- | | — — — — — of schoolmasters, | - | 7 |
| glas, | - - - 684 | — — — — — of male servants, | - | 92 |
| — — — — — in the country, | 1031 | — — — — — of female ditto, | - | 90 |
| Number of males, | - 774 | — — — — — of poor, | - - | 29 |
| — — — — — of females, | - 941 | — — — — — of young persons not | | |
| — — — — — of families, | - 419 | — — — — — gone to school, | - | 246 |

Ecclesiastical State.—There are two clergymen in this parish, the minister of the established church, and a Cameronian or M'Millanite minister, who has resided in it about 30 years. Lord Douglas is patron of the parish. The stipend is £3 l. 6 s. 8 d. Sterling, and a very good glebe. A new church, manse, and offices were built in 1781. The old church was called St. Brides's Church, in honour of the patroness of the parish: a part of it is still kept up, on account of the ancient monuments in it and burying vault,* although there is a very elegant

* On the north side of the church, in a niche below the gallery belonging to the family of Douglas, is buried one of the Dukes of Tourain. The arch of the monument is partly broken down and defaced; but on the fragments his arms appear quartered thus:—1st, Tourain, 2d, Douglas, 3d, Galloway, 4th Annandale, with the following inscription:—HIC JACET ARCHIBALDUS DOUGLAS, DUX DE TOURAINIE, COMES DE DOUGLAS ET LONGVILLE, DOMI-

elegant burying vault in the new kirk, for the family of Douglas, in which are deposited the remains of the Duke and Duchess of Douglas, and Lady Lucy Douglas.

L 2

Schools

NUS GALLOVIE, WIGTONIE & ANNANDIE, LOCUM TENENS REGIS SCOTIE, ORBIT 26. DIE MENSIS JUNII 1438. This nobleman was the son of Archibald Douglas, surnamed *Tineman*, the first Duke of Tourain, and Maud Lindsay, daughter of David Earl of Crawford. On the south side of the church, in a niche commonly called St. Thomas's aisle, are the following inscriptions: *Hic jacet Magnus et Potens Princeps, Dominus Jacobus de Douglas, Dux Tourania et Comes de Douglas, Dominus Annandia, Gallovidie, Liddalie, Jedburg: forestia et Dominus de Balvenia, Magnus Wardanus regni Scotia versus Angliam, &c. qui obiit 24. die Mensis Martii, Anno Domini 1443.* This James was brother to the former Archibald, and succeeded to his estate and honours after the murder of his two sons in Edinburgh Castle. The following is the inscription for his lady. *Hic jacet Domina Beatrix de Sinclair, (filia Domini Henrici Comitis Orcadum, Domini de Sinclair, &c.) Comitissa de Douglas et Avenia, Domina Gallovidie.* In basso relievo, are to be seen the above nobleman's arms impaled, with his lady's; the cutting is distinct, and part of the gilding still entire. On the east side of these, above the church-door, is a stone, with the following inscription, which is supposed to have been moved from its original station, when making some repairs on the Church. *Ha sunt proles inter prædictos Dominum et Dominam generata. Imo, Dominus Wilhelmus primogenitus et heres dicti Domini Jacobi, qui successit ad totam hereditatem prædictam. Jacobus 2do genitus magister de Douglas. Archibaldus 3tio genitus comes Moravia. Hugo 4to genitus comes Ormundie. Joannes 5to genitus Dominus de Balvenia. Henricus 6to, genitus. Margareta uxor Domini de Dalkeith. Beatrix uxor Domini * Joannis, consabularii Scotia. Janetia uxor Domini de Biggar et de Cumbernauld. Elizabetha Douglas 4ta filia erat.* In a niche on the north side of the church, west from the Duke of Tourain's monument, there has been another magnificent one, embellished with Gothic ornaments, erected to the memory of the good Sir James, the eighth Lord of the family, upon which were 12 lion's heads of curious net work, which had been cut, mutilated and abused during the time of Oliver Cromwell's usurpation, by his garrison (placed in the castle of Douglas), in resentment of Sir James having been an enemy to the English nation. This monument is not impaled. The following are the inscriptions on the lead coffins in the vault:—*Gul. Angus. Dominus ex Jacobo Marchione Douglasia*

* Home, in his history of the Douglasses, calls him Lord of Aubigny.

Schools and Poor.—Besides the public school, there is also an English school in the town; always two, and sometimes three English schools in the country part of the parish; there are also, at present, two Sunday schools in the town, which are of great advantage to the young, and especially such of them as are much employed throughout the week. The poor, on the weekly roll, get, according to their circumstances, from 6 d. to 2 s. per week. But besides those on the roll, there are many occasional poor, who get from 2 s. 6 d. to 5 s. per quarter. There is 110 l. Sterling mortified for their use. The collections at the church, which have always been good, are still increasing; and last year they amounted to near 35 l. The other casualties vary, but may, at an average, amount to about 20 l. yearly. The heritors, have, for many years past, assessed themselves in what was necessary to make up the deficiency. In 1783, when the meal was not only dear but scarce and bad, Lord Douglas ordered money to be given to the minister to purchase good meal, to be distributed weekly to such as had occasion for it, at 1 s. per peck, and his Lordship

Douglasie, et Dom. Maria Kerr filia Comitis Lathiana conjuge primogenitus, Née. 15 Oct. 1693, obiit 20 May 1694.—*Maria Gordon filia Georgii primi Marchionis de Huntly, quam Gulielmus primus Marchio de Douglas in uxorē secundo duxit, quoque anno sua ætatis senagesimo quarto salutis humanæ, 1644, mortem obiit.*—*Hic situm est corpus Gul. Marchionis Douglasie eo titulo primi, qui ex diversis et mutuis thalamis ab Hamiltoniorum et Gordoniorum gente suam progeniem continuatam Hamiltoniorum vero inflauratam reliquit Obiit 11. Cal. Mart. anno 1660, ætat. vero 71.*—*Margaret. Hamilton Angusta Comitissa obiit 38 anno ætatis sue 11 Septembris 1623.*—*Anna Stewarta dux: Lennoxia et Richmondia filia Archibaldo Angusta Comiti per XVII. annos nupta, obiit XVI. die Augusti, ann. MDCXLI. æt. XXXI.*—*D. O. M. Hic positum est corpus Margareta filia primogenita Gul. Marchionis de Douglas, relicta ex matrimonio cum Margareta obiit, Imo, Jan. 1660. Katharine conjuga Domini de Torphichen, item Joanna Gul. Alexandri Comite de Sterl. ætatis 49.* The following is the only inscription upon the last Marquis of Douglas:—*I. M. D. Ætatis 54, Obiit 25 Febr. 1700.*

ship paid the balance, which was a great and seasonable relief to the industrious poor at that time.

Castle.—The old castle of Douglas was burnt by accident about 33 years ago. The Duke, in his lifetime, built one wing of a new castle, of very strong and elegant work, in which there are betwixt 50 and 60 fire-rooms. This wing was finished by Lord Douglas, but it still wants a front and another wing to complete the plan. The dining room is a most elegant one, being $40\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, 25 feet broad, and 18 feet high. There is also a beautiful hanging stair, which is much admired by all people of taste.

General Character of the People.—They are a sober, decent, and industrious set of people; attend regularly on the ordinances of the gospel, and are remarkably charitable and humane; they even turn their innocent amusements to the advantage of the poor; for, during the severe frost last winter, when they went to curling on the ice, a favourite diversion here, they, more than once, played for a certain sum each, and applied the forfeited money, to purchase coals for the poor,

NUMBER VI.

PARISH OF TWEEDSMUIR.

(County of Tweeddale—Presbytery of Peebles—Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale.)

By the Rev. Mr THOMAS MUSCHET.

Erection, Extent, Soil, Hills, Rivers, &c.

THIS district, formed anciently a part of the parish of Drummelzier, but was erected into a distinct parish in 1643. It is about 9 miles in length, and in many places as much in breadth. It is a hilly country, with some flats and morasses. A number of the hills are very beautiful, being covered with grass to the very tops; others have a mixture of heath; some are of a great height, particularly Hartfield and Broadlaw, which are about 2800 feet above the level of the sea. The river Tweed has its source at the south-west extremity of the parish, and runs through it in a north east direction. It is joined by the waters of Core, Fruid, and Talla, besides several smaller burns or rivulets, all of which abound with trouts.

Cultivation and Produce.—The arable parts of the parish produce oats, barley, &c. upon a light loam, with gravel and sand at the bottom; but, owing to the great rains, and early frosts, the crops are very precarious; indeed the whole of the parish is by nature principally adapted for pasture. The mutton fed upon the heathy hills and flats, is remarkable for delicacy

delicacy of taste and flavour; although small, and seldom weighing more than 10 or 12 lbs. per quarter, it is far superior (for the table) to the large mutton fed upon a low and rich pasture.

Sheep and Wool.—The whole of the parish contains 15 farms, which feed about 15,000 sheep, besides a necessary number of horses and black cattle. The graziers in the north of England, are particularly fond of the Tweedsmuir breed of sheep; they buy them of all ages, and drive them to their farms, where they are much esteemed, being healthy and good thrivers. A number of the young sheep are sold at the Linton markets, in the month of June, to be driven to the Ochil and Alva hills, and other places in the Highlands of Scotland; a number of lambs, yeld sheep, and draught ewes, are sold to the butcher, and help to supply the markets of Edinburgh, Glasgow, &c. The sheep farmers, commonly called store-masters, begin to smear their sheep about the middle of October, with a mixture of tar and butter, which, after separating the wool, is laid close to the skin in regular layers all over the body, to destroy the vermin that breed on sheep, and protect the animal against the inclemency of the weather. This operation, no doubt, lessens the value of the wool, but it is found to be absolutely necessary. The fleeces thus impregnated with tar and butter, are shorn about the middle of summer, and lately sold at 6s. and 6s. 6d. per stone: a great part of them is sent to the manufacturing towns in Yorkshire; some to the north of Scotland; a small part is manufactured into coarse cloth for family use, and some is spun into yarn, and sold in that state. Several attempts have been made to improve the staple of wool in this parish, by introducing an English breed of sheep, from those belonging to Mr. Bakewell; but they were found not to answer, as they were very unhealthy

unhealthy, and never arrived to the size or fatness of the native sheep. Mr. Tweedie of Oliver, however, a respectable heritor in this parish, has found the Cheviot breed as hardy as the native.

Population.—The population of this parish has decreased considerably. About 70 years ago, the lands were occupied by 26 tenants, but the farms have since that period been gradually enlarged in extent, and of course diminished in number; even of the 15 to which they are now reduced, so many are engrossed in the hands of the same persons, and these often settled in other parishes, that there are only 3 farmers at present resident in the whole parish. The whole number of dwelling houses is only 51, and of these 3 are inns, situated at the Crook, Beild, and Tweedshaws, upon the high-way from Edinburgh to Moffat, Dumfries, &c. which passes through this parish along the banks of the Tweed, and is often, (especially in that part of its extent which lies within this parish), in a very bad state, but will now meet with a thorough repair. The whole number of souls, at present in the parish, is only 227; the return to Dr. Webster, in 1755, was 397, so that there is a decrease of 170. Before the practice of inoculation was introduced, the small pox frequently carried off great numbers of the children. The inhabitants of Tweedsmuir are in general stout and healthy, and many live to an advanced age. During the last 10 years, there have been 77 baptisms, 33 marriages, and 56 burials.

Church, School, and Poor.—The church was built in 1618. The stipend was paid some years ago, partly in grain, and partly in money; but an equitable conversion having been agreed upon, at the rate of 12 s. 6 d. a boll for the grain, the whole stipend is now paid in money, and amounts to 75 l. Sterling a-year.

a-year. The Duke of Queensberry is patron ; the lands in the parish belong to 7 different heritors, of whom only 1 resides. The poor are assisted by the weekly collections at church ; a school was lately instituted, and a school house built ; the heritors fixed the salary at 100 merks Scotch, but the scholars are few in number.

Antiquities.—Some remains of antiquity are to be seen in this parish, near the highway ; and a few miles above the Beild there are several cairns, which have probably been raised over some ancient graves* : Vestiges of ancient castles still remain at Oliver ; at Fruid, where a family of the name of Frazer formerly resided ; and at Hackshaw, the seat of the ancient family of the Porteouses.

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* Near Nether Menzion, on the banks of the river Fruid, is the grave of Marion Chisholm, who is said to have come hither from Edinburgh, while the plague was raging there, and to have communicated the pestilential infection to the inhabitants of three different farms in the parish, viz. Nether Menzion, Glen-cothe, and Fruid, by means of a bundle of clothes, which she brought with her ; in consequence of which, a number of persons died, and were buried in the ruins of their houses, which their neighbours pulled down upon their dead bodies.

NUMBER VII.

PARISH OF KILMARTIN.

*(County and Synod of Argyll—Presbytery of Inverary.)**By the Rev. Mr. HUGH CAMPBELL.**Origin o the Name.*

REMOTE Highland parishes, distant from the scenes of great and memorable events, backward in most kinds of improvements, particularly in agriculture, and without trade or manufactures, cannot be expected to furnish much matter for statistical inquiry.—The name of this parish is, and has been Kilmartin, as far back as either record or tradition can trace it. It is supposed to have been given, in memory of some reputed saint, in a distant period of Christianity. Such etymologies of names, particularly those of ancient burial places, which were generally places of worship, are not uncommon. In this country, such places were called *Kills*. Kilmartin was therefore the burial place of St. Martin, and probably also his residence.

Extent, Surface, Soil, Climate, &c.—The form of the parish is oblong, running from S. W. to N. E. Its length is from 11 to 12 miles, and its greatest breadth about 3 miles. The appearance of the country in the lower, or S. W. end of
the

the parish, is rather hilly than mountainous, with arable and pasture grounds intermixed. Some of the hills being covered with green, and others with short heath, are considered as good pasture for cattle. The upper or N. E. end is much higher land, more adapted to pasture than tillage, (though it contains a considerable extent of arable ground), and, till of late, has been occupied as such. The soil in the lower end is rather light, yet fertile, producing what are here considered as good crops. In the upper end it is deeper, yet the land being high and cold, the grain is late in ripening and ill filled. The valley, from the church of Kilmartin, to Lochow, is one of the most beautiful in the Highlands. The rocks covered on each side with trees to their summits, form a picturesque appearance; and the luxuriance of the wood shews that planting of every sort would thrive well. The climate does not differ much from other parts of the country; but although wet, is not unhealthy. Agues are seldom known, nor are there any pulmonary complaints. Fevers, of the low and nervous sort, are found amongst the lower class, arising from want of cleanliness, and from a poor diet. The soil is fertile, and yields good crops of barley. There is a large tract of moss near Crinan, which is very improveable; and the proprietor, Mr. Malcolm of Poltalloch, much to his credit, intends, it is said, to let it out in small portions to tenants, for improving it, which will be of great use, both by increasing population, and by setting an example, worthy to be followed, in other parts of the country.

Lakes, &c.—The only considerable lake in this parish is Lochow, a part of which forms a boundary between it and Glasrie to the N. E. for about 6 miles. The whole lake is computed to be 24 miles in length; but it is not broad in

any part. It abounds with trouts and salmon. The fishing, to a certain extent, is the property of an heritor of this parish. There is a peculiar species of fish in it, called *black trouts*, which are short and thick, black in the skin, and red in the fish. The incumbent has seen one of them that weighed 16 lb. and when cut up, two small trouts were taken out of it entire, one of them measuring 12 inches, the other 10. This fishing, however, has not hitherto been so very productive, as to make it an object worthy of much public notice.

Sea Coast and Fish.—The extent of coast will be from 7 to 8 miles, nearly S. and N., formed by an arm of the sea, called Loch Craignish. The sea, by which the south part of this parish and North Knapdale is bounded to the W. and N. W., is formed into a strait by the Island of Jura, which divides it from the Western Ocean. The shore is, for the most part, high and rocky, except the Bay of Crinan, and the end of Loch Craignish, (which are fine flat sand), and a few other smaller creeks.

There is a species of fish taken on this coast, which goes by the general name of *Grey fish*. They are of different sizes, most of them much larger than herrings. They are generally caught in the evening and morning, with rods and lines, but not in great quantities; though they are very useful, contributing not only to the support of those, who reside within a mile or two of the coast, during the summer, which is the scarcest season, but affording them also light in the winter by their oil.—There are likewise in the Bay of Crinan, cod, ling, turbot, soles, &c. in great abundance; but the people are not skilful in catching them.—Herrings are frequently taken in Loch Craignish and Loch Crinan, though not to any great extent; also the finest oysters that are any where to be found, and in great plenty. In the former, about 6 years ago,

ago, there were about 500 l. worth of herrings caught, by from 20 to 30 boats, in the course of 4 or 5 weeks, (though most of them were ill provided with nets or skilful hands), and sold in the country, at from 10 d. to 1 s. the hundred. They generally appear upon the coast from July to August. The other sea animals, are, seals, peltocks, otters, and some small whales, that come to the coast in pursuit of the herrings.

The sea weed, useful for manure, and driven ashore by the storms, is a sort of long grass, called sea grass; it is generally used for potatoes; and when laid on in large quantities, gives middling crops of that root. There is also a weed, called *tangle*, sometimes made into kelp, which is a richer manure, and, when moderately laid on, and not often repeated, (without a mixture of some cooling stuff, to correct the hot scalding nature of it), is found to give good crops of bear. The kelp, is not so considerable, as might be expected from the extent of shore, for it produces only from 10 to 12 tons yearly.—The course of the tides, upon the shore and adjacent sea, is pretty much from N. to S., and the reverse. The coast of this parish does not lie in the course of vessels; but the excellent harbour of Crinan invites them to anchor in it *,—There are
several

* Loch Crinan is not only the best harbour of this parish, but is considered as the best upon a great tract of the western coast. In this harbour, almost the whole of the buss herring fleet anchor, in their voyages to and from the fishing ground, besides a vast number of vessels from Great Britain and Ireland; and they are frequently detained in this harbour, for several weeks, waiting for a fair wind to take them round the Mull of Kintyre. By a survey recently made, it has been found practicable, to make a navigable canal for large sea-built vessels, from this to Loch Gilp, which is only 5 miles across. And Mr. Rennie, an eminent engineer, who surveyed it, is of opinion, that it may be made, at a very moderate expence, and with plenty of water for boats and barges, as well as large vessels. It is hardly possible to express the astonishing advantages, with which the opening of this communication will be attended to
the

several islands belonging to this parish; but only 2 of them are any thing considerable; with some bays or creeks, safe harbours for coasting vessels.—The lower end of this parish*, upon the Bay of Crinan, and contiguous to the place of the proposed canal, is considered by many as a proper situation for a village, there being some arable land, with a great extent of low flat mofs coming to the shore, which might not only furnish convenient fuel, but could be easily improved by draining, and with the advantage of shell sand, which is in
great

the people of this part of the kingdom. It will not only enable the inhabitants, to avoid entirely the very dangerous passage round the Mull of Kintyre, but, by affording a ready market for all the productions of the Western Isles, it will invite the people to pursue a variety of kinds of industry, to which they have hitherto been strangers. Above all, it will enable them to supply themselves with salt and coals; and if the duty were taken off the last, and rock salt allowed to be imported, the people in these countries would be as happy as they are now miserable, and they would be under no temptation of leaving their native soil, to try their fortunes in America.—A subscription is set on foot for this important purpose; and there is little doubt, that, from the spirited exertions now making, a sufficient sum will be raised. And, when the great magnitude of the trade is considered, there is reason to believe, that it will repay the subscribers very liberally for the sums they may advance. If that should take place, a communication for boats, could be made from thence to Lochow, which is only 5 miles distant, and would open an extensive and fertile country of near 32 miles, and be of great advantage, to the landed property, of that part of the county of Argyll.

* There are no monuments of antiquity, but some cairns or heaps of stones. Though these are to be met with in many parts of the country, yet they are more frequent in the lower end of this parish, which, being near a safe harbour, and considered as a good spot of land, is supposed to have given occasion to many disputes and quarrels; and tradition points out these cairns, as the burial places of those of the lower class, who fell in such conflicts. Near some of these cairns, there are a number of great stones, standing upon end, from 6 to 8, or 10 feet above the surface, placed in a line, though rather irregular. They are also marked, by the same source, as the places where those of greater note have been laid, but without any figure or character.

great abundance, would yield good crops, and afford employment and subsistence to settlers. The introduction of manufactures, (it is apprehended), would not be difficult, there being an easy communication with the Low Country. It is also at no great distance from the fishing stations; and there is hardly a year, but there are herrings from July to August, and sometimes later, in most of the bays and creeks upon the west coast of Argyll.—There is a salmon fishing on the bay of Crinan, the property of Mr. Malcolm of Paltalloch. It has not, hitherto, been very productive. The fish, are generally sold in the country, fresh, from 1½ d. to 2 d. the pound; but it might be greatly extended, by spirited management, which, there is every reason to think, will be the case, both in regard to fishing and lands, under the active and public spirited proprietor, who has lately purchased that property.

Minerals and Floods.—There is a copper mine, which has been wrought upon for some years, in the property of Mr. Campbell of Kilmartin: the company who had taken it, being dissolved, it has been discontinued for some time, without ascertaining its value, though the appearance was judged favourable.—Coals would be a happy discovery. There are no land floods, except the overflowings of a small water, which runs through a valley for about 6 miles, and falls into the sea at Crinan; it unites with a larger river, which partly divides this parish from Knapdale and Glasric, about half a mile before it falls into the sea. There are several curious rocks of limestone, of the schistus kind, which are equally convenient for building and manure.

Animals.—Quadrupeds of the wild kind are foxes, hares, badgers, wild cats, pole-cats, weasles. Native birds are black cocks, and muirfowls in the hill; crows, pyots, and wild pigeons

pigeons in the low grounds, with different kinds of hawks, and a few eagles. Upon the shore, sea-maws, with various sorts of ducks, and migratory birds: woodcocks appear early in winter, and disappear in spring; also swans on the sea and lakes. Those fowls, called widgeons, appear early in spring, if the season is mild, and disappear about the middle or latter end of autumn, as the weather is moderate, or otherwise. There are some good black cattle, both in point of shape and size, which are reared from a few stocks in this parish, and fetch at the rate of, from 7 l. to 9 l. the cow and calf. Young cattle sell in proportion.

Population.—There are no records, by which the state of this parish, with regard to population, can be traced very far back; the general belief is, that it has decreased between 70 and 80 souls within these last 20 years*.—The increase however within these 40 years is considerable. The present number of souls (all of whom reside in the country), is as follows:

| | | | | | | |
|----------|---|---|-----|------------|---|------|
| Males, | - | - | 760 | } - Total, | - | 1537 |
| Females, | - | - | 777 | | | |

The number returned to Dr. Webster in 1755, was, - 1150

Increase, - 387

Average

* What has affected the population most, within that period, is, the laying out some lands entirely in pasture; 2 or 3 farms being now thrown into the hands of one grazier, which were formerly possessed, some by 4, and some by 8 tenants each, but are now the residence only of a herd or two: And at the end of the leases, which are very short in this country, (being only from 5 to 7 years with the lower order of tenants), such farms as are adapted to it are, almost always, laid out in pasture. This has not operated, however, so much against population in general, as against a particular class of the inhabitants. It reduces the number of the tenants, but it adds to that of the cottagers, as they are often kept, upon some of the farms, that are laid out in pasture. But although this may in part make up the deficiency in population, brought on by this mode of occupying lands; yet, upon the whole, it is found, that there has been some decrease in the number of inhabitants since the commencement of it, or within these 20 years.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----|
| Average of births for 5 years | Persons under 10 years of age, | 443 |
| preceding 1791, - 30 | from 10 to 20, - | 257 |
| of marriages for the same | from 20 to 30, - | 640 |
| period *, - - 21 | from 30 to 40, - | 162 |
| of children produced by | from 40 to 50*, - | 36 |
| each, about - - 3½ | | |
| Number of bachelors above 20 | | |
| years of age †, - - 70 | | |

| Situation of the inhabitants. | Number of Families. | Average of Persons in each. |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Gentry, - - - 6 | - - - 11 | |
| Tenants ‡, - - - 100 | - - - 6 | |
| Crofters §, - - - 24 | - - - 6 | |
| Cotters , or cottagers - - 133 | - - - 5 nearly | |
| Change-keepers, - - - 9 | - - - 7 | |
| VOL. VIII. | N | Tailors, |

* There is no register of deaths. There are few above 83 in the parish, and none so old as 90.

† The proportion of bachelors to the annual marriages is about 6 to 1: Of the latter to the whole population, as 1 to 19; and of the births, as 1 to 50.

‡ The tenants, particularly of arable farms, have but small possessions, only the fourth part of a farm, or what is called here a *borse-gang*; so that there are generally 4 upon every farm, and sometimes 6 and 8 when it is a large one. The work of the farm is carried on in common among the whole tenants, with their wives and children. They seldom employ any servants, and such only occasionally, when their children are not of age to give any assistance.

§ The crofter is tenant of a still smaller possession. He occupies a piece of arable land, marked out for himself, which may be, from 1, to 2, or 3 acres, though not generally measured, with grafs for 1 or 2 cows, in common with the cattle of the next farm. It were to be wished that this mode would become more general, and the crofts made larger, as it is found, that a piece of land, in the management of 1 man, with ordinary care and industry, will make it more productive, in proportion, than a larger extent, when under the direction of a greater number.

|| The cotters are the most numerous class, in which are comprehended the tradesmen, the day labourers, the old infirm reduced tenants, and several widows. The cotter possesses only a small house and garden, sometimes without a cow's grafs, and even potatoe land, but what he must purchase from the tenants. He

| | | | |
|------------------------------|----|-----------------------|----|
| Tailors, - - - | 11 | Shoemakers, - - - | 6 |
| Weavers, - - - | 16 | Millers, - - - | 4 |
| Smiths, - - - | 4 | Ferryman, - - - | 1 |
| House carpenters, - - - | 3 | Salmon fisher, - - - | 1 |
| Boat carpenter, - - - | 1 | Apprentices, - - - | 7 |
| Plough and cart maker, - - - | 1 | Men servants *, - - - | 22 |
| Wheel wright, - - - | 1 | Women servants, - - - | 29 |

Climate and Diseases.—The climate is rather rainy ; yet the inhabitants depend more upon temperance and exercise, than physic, for health. There are none of the faculty therefore in the parish, though some reside at no great distance. There are no destructive epidemical distempers, but the small-pox and measles. The danger of the former is nearly done away by inoculation (which is become pretty general here), and that danger would be still less, if the lower people paid more attention

is independent of the tenants, for the farm on which he resides, holding his possession from the proprietor, to whom his rent and services are payable. The old and infirm, being reckoned in this order, makes the average of their families fall lower. There may be about 20 young lads, who hire themselves for the north fishing yearly, and return to the parish when it is over ; there being no vessels from this place at that fishing.

Between 20 and 25 years ago, at different periods, about 40 families of tenants have been deprived of their possessions by a number of large farms being laid out into pasture. By the common calculation, this would diminish the population about 200. But upon many of the farms, some of the former possessors are retained as cotters, and others are put in, to preserve the houses, or *biggings*, as they are called, in case it might be found necessary, at some future period, to return to the former mode of occupying the farms by small tenants, particularly farms adapted for tillage. By these means, the loss which population would otherwise sustain, is, in a considerable degree, made up.

* As the gentry in this parish are but few, and the residing heritors still fewer, there are not many servants, and even these are occasionally employed as labouring servants, particularly during harvest and hay making.

attention to the regimen of their children upon these occasions. There is another complaint which prevails among children, and generally those about 12 years of age and under, called the whooping cough. It is exceedingly severe, and particularly dangerous, when it attacks very young children. It is generally very lingering. The continuance and severity of it, may considerably depend, upon the season of the year when it comes on.

Wood, Cattle, &c.—The natural wood here, consists mostly of oak and ash, with some birch and hazel, but not to any great extent. Within these 25 years, at different periods, 100,000 trees, it is said, have been planted upon one gentleman's property, of different kinds of fir, oak, ash, beech, elm, and a variety of other trees. Upon a few other properties, there have been also some planted, though to a less extent.

The cattle in this parish, of the different kinds, may *Black Cattle. Horses. Sheep*
amount to, - - - - - 1800 350 6000

Of these, there may be in the possession of the small

tenants, in parcels on the different farms, about - 1000 280 1300

The rest are in the hands of the graziers, and the principal tacksmen *.

Cultivation and Produce.—There is no general survey of this parish; though a few of the heritors have got their estates measured, yet neither the arable, nor the pasture ground, is laid out by measure. The arable land is divided into *in-field* and *out-field*; the *in-field* into three equal parts; in one of these there is bear, in another oats, and the third is mostly in potatoes. Next year, the bear follows the potatoes, oats the former bear, and
N 2 potatoes

* There is a part of this parish which does not winter black cattle, yet supports about 200, which are not in the above enumeration.

potatoes the division which was last in oats. This rotation is continued from year to year; the manure being generally lime, and the dung the cattle makes in winter. The out-field, is allowed to lie ley, or in pasture, for 2 years, and the milk cattle and sheep are folded upon it: Then there are 2 running crops of oats, and sometimes 3, taken of it, and the same rest, and cropping is continued, being the general process of agriculture in this country. There is no grafs seed sown but by 1 gentleman; and the extent of land is not ascertained. The parish supplies the inhabitants with beef, mutton, butter and cheese; but it hardly does so in meal for 7 months of the year, and the bear, being all distilled into whisky, occasions a considerable quantity of that grain to be imported. The time of sowing oats, is from the beginning of April to the middle of it; the potatoe planting begins then; and bear from the 8th to the 15th of May. The bear is begun to be cut towards the latter end of August, and the oats about the middle or end of September, and sometimes in October.—As the south end of the parish, lies mostly upon the shore, near a good harbour, it is equally calculated for tillage and pasture. The arable land, (which is considered among the best in this part of the country), lying low, and ripening pretty early, with the materials for improving it almost upon every field, such as limestone and moss, with the appearance of marl in different places, though hitherto not much tried. The north end is considered among the best pasture land*.

Proprietors

* The wages of male servants, in the different kinds of husbandry or domestic work, by the year, is from 6l to 7l.; of female servants, from 50s. to 3l.; only, in harvest, a female may make from 25s. to 30s. for 3 months. These wages are considered as high here; and the rise being within these few years, is imputed to the different improvements going on in the Low Country, this parish being nearly a day's journey to it, and many of the servants acquainted with

Proprietors and Rent.—There are 12 heritors ; only 3 reside in the parish, whereby above 2000 l. of the rent is spent out of it.

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---------|---|---|-----------|
| The valued rent is about | - | L. 3643 | 3 | 0 | Scotch ; |
| The real rent about | - | 3453 | 0 | 0 | Sterling. |

One gentleman's property in the south extremity, upon the bay of Crinan, consisting of 3822 acres, of which 1026 are arable, is valued at 1089 l. 7 s. Scotch ; the real rent is about 750 l. Sterling. This is the principal property in the parish, and may be greatly improved by cultivating the moor above mentioned. Another gentleman's property, on the north end of the parish, consists of extensive hill land. The whole estate was surveyed ; but 1 farm of it being in the neighbouring parish, makes the exact number of acres belonging to this district uncertain, but it is believed by the proprietor to be about 7000. The valued rent is 410 l. 13 s. Scotch ; the real rent

with the wages there, must have something near it, though there are neither improvements nor manufactures to afford it.

There are 42 ploughs, 1 to every farm, though there may be 6 more farms, and extensive as to hill, they can hardly be said to have a plough, as their sowing will not consist of above a boll or two, of a kind of small black bearded corn, or oats, for feeding cattle in winter. There are about 10 or 12 of the above number, who plough little more than what serves the cattle in severe winters.—About 15 years ago, there was a plough-maker almost in every other farm. Any person, who considered himself possessed of greater sagacity than his neighbour, went to the wood, and took such sticks as had a natural cast for his purpose, which being joined in a most clumsy manner, without the least knowledge of mechanical principles, formed what was called a plough. It tore up the land, indeed, but with great labour both to man and horse. There is now a regular bred plough-maker, who has been settled in the parish these 6 years. The kind used, is the common plough, drawn by four horses a-breast, the driver, with his fate to the horses, going backwards. There are only 12 carts, these implements of husbandry not being as yet much used by the tenants.

rent is rather above 800 l. Sterling. The great rise in this property has taken place within these 4 years ; and there has been nearly the same proportion with regard to the rise of rent in the rest of the pasture and arable land. The great demand for black cattle, and the sheep stocks, brought the extensive hill land (the greatest part of which is covered with heath), into repute, which, about 40 years ago, and even after that period, was very low rented, as of little value to either possessor or proprietor. On this property, there is about 600 l. said to be laid out in stone dikes. The rent of cottages, the only kind that are let, will be from 10 s. to 15 s., without either grass or potatoe land : The services are 12 days with their victuals ; but there being few residing heritors, these services are mostly commuted to both cotters and tenants, the cotters for 6 d. *per* day, the tenants for 1 s.; they being still, however, liable for services with horses.

Stock and Produce.—As to the average value of the live stock, it is not easily ascertained with any great accuracy, the knowing ones, in that way, differing in opinion; yet, at a medium, it may be from 4 l. to 4 l. 10 s. the cow, of 3 years old and upwards ; the horses from 7 l. to 8 l. above 2 years old ; the sheep in the flock way, being the black faced kind, about 12 s. ; The small tenants sheep, being of an inferior kind, from 5 s. 6 d. to 6 s. Wool, clean and tarred, 7 s. the stone, of 24 English pounds ; cheese, 5 s. when soft and green ; butter, 12 s. the stone : Common fowls, a hen, 6 d., the cock, 4 d. ; the dozen of eggs, 2 d. The last articles seem upon the rise, there being a weekly packet from Loch Gilp to Greenock, which brought on a considerable demand.—As to the annual produce, it can hardly be ascertained with any degree of accuracy, the land not being laid out by acres, nor the people very exact as to the quantity of seed they sow ; but
from

from the best information that can be got, the lower, or S.W. end of the parish, the principal arable part of it (being nearly one half of the valued rent, and two-fifths of the real), may sow 540 bolls white oats, and 80 bolls bear: The produce does not exceed $3\frac{1}{2}$ feeds of oats; and in bear, generally about $5\frac{1}{2}$ or 6 returns. The boll of oats sells, at from 15s. to 17s., according to the quality; the bear, from 20s. to 22s. The measure, is reckoned larger, by nearly 2 pecks, than the Linlithgow boll. There are considerable crops of potatoes, not that the increase is great, but large quantities being planted, some in the drilled way, the boll of them generally sells, from 5s. to 6s., in autumn and winter. There is no regular measure for them, 3 barrels (herring gauge), being reckoned nearly a boll. When they fail, the tenants are much at a loss, being under the necessity of using, for the support of their families, the victual that was designed for the rent.

Farms.—The rent of arable farms, according to their quality and extent, may be from 40l. to 80l. They are possessed, the smaller farms by 4, and the larger by 6, and some times 8 tenants. The stock or holding of these farms, may be, from 24 to 48 cows, besides some young cattle; from 30 to 60 sheep; and from 8 to 12 horses, according to their different extents. The sowing is much in the same proportion; oats, from 20 to 45 bolls; bear, from 3 to 6 bolls. What is called bear here, is greatly inferior to the Low Country barley. It would be the interest of the tenant to reduce his stock at least a fourth, as, by the present management, there is neither milk nor rearing in proportion to the number of cattle. When young, they are at short allowance as to milk, and pinched in grass when further advanced; so that few of them turn out to be good cattle. This holds good, however, only with regard to the cattle of the small tenants.

Church.—

Church.—The living, as modified by decret in the year 1765, is 1000 l. Scotch, including communion elements; a considerable part being in victual, make it, *communibus annis*, about 100 l. Sterling, with the glebe, which is supposed to be legal as to extent, with 4 founs grafs, in common with the cattle of the farm. The grafs is not considered as worth 10 s. each foun, in the year, notwithstanding the great rent of grafs lands, that a cow's grafs cannot be got below 25 and 30 s. on some of the pasture farms.—The Duke of Argyll is patron.—The church was built in the year 1601. The walls are strong, but the plan is incommodious. It is a long narrow stripe, and has had no reparation or improvement since it was built, except giving it a new roof. The pulpit is a curiosity, and is thought not to be matched in Scotland. It is an old Gothic structure of stones and lime, about 7 feet from the level of the floor, and is coeval with the church. The manse was built in the year 1789, and is a tolerable commodious house.

Schools and Poor.—There is a parochial school, with a salary of 14 l. 4 s., made up by 6 d. on the pound valuation, and mortified money, besides session emoluments and quarter wages. The number of scholars will be, in winter, from 80 to 90; but fewer in summer. There is also a society school, with 9 l. salary, attended by about 40 scholars in winter. The taste here does not run much on the learned languages, there being few gentlemen's children.—The number of poor upon the parish list, is generally from 28 to 32. There is no established fund for them besides the church collections; and in a country parish, where there are but few gentry, and the lower class of tenants rather poor, and rarely having money in their hands, the collection must be very inconsiderable. The principal tacksmen do not reside. This small fund, may, with the sacramental collection, amount to 10 l. or 12 l. a-year, and is distributed,

tributed, at stated times, and will only enable to get a pair of shoes, or some piece of clothes. They get their subsistence by begging from door to door; and, not being confined to their own parishes, come in great numbers from most corners of the kingdom. Among them there are many sturdy beggars, more able to labour for their bread, than many of those who serve them. It were to be wished, that some plan were adopted, by which the condition of real objects might be rendered more comfortable, and those who are able, made to contribute in some degree, to their own support.

Village, Fuel, &c.—There are no villages, except Kilmartin, which is the place of worship, and other parochial meetings. It has a commodious inn, situated upon the great road from the south end of Kintyre, by Tarbert and Lochgilp, and leading to Fort William, by Craignish and Lorn. It has 3 markets in the year, 1 for black cattle, and 2 for horses, where the country people gather from 15 to 20 miles round, with webs of linen and woollen clothes, and such small parcels of lint, as can be spared from their families. Although situated upon the coast *, there are few seafaring people, as there is no trade to employ them. The harbour behind Ilandavain, and below Duntroon Castle, has good anchorage, and safe from all winds, with easy access to vessels of any burden.—The fuel commonly used is peats, a most precarious firing in this

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O

rainy

* No ships have been wrecked on this coast in the memory of any now living, though, within these 10 years, there were 4 vessels, of considerable size, driven ashore in the bay of Crinan, with their cargoes. They were foreign vessels, and ignorant of the coast; but the beach and ground are so excellent, that they were got off without any farther damage, but the loss of a little time, and some trifling expence: so that there was no occasion for any extraordinary exertion of humanity and generosity, though, had there been occasion, it would not have been wanting.

rainy climate. There are few peats sold, as people generally endeavour to make their own; but when they are, the ordinary price is from 20 d. to 2s. the cart, according to the time they are bought, in harvest or spring. The cart may furnish 1 fire, to an ordinary family, for 5 or 6 days.

Character, &c.—The people, in general, are of a middling size, squat, and pretty strong made, though not very remarkable for extraordinary strength. They are from $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet to 5 feet 10 inches, few of them 6 feet. In general, they are disposed to industry, if it were properly directed. They are little attached to a military life; but when induced to enter into the service, they have turned out good soldiers, and become even fond of the profession. The few gentry here, live genteelly, without being extravagant. The other class of the inhabitants, are economists from necessity; their only luxury being a little whisky occasionally, which excites some mirth and glee. Their general character, however, is sobriety. They complain of a difficulty in making up their rents, and consequently, they must pinch themselves in some of the comforts, or even necessities, of life; yet, upon the whole, they seem cheerful and contented.

Disadvantages.—The writer of this article will not presume to say, whether the rent of farms here, may or may not be too high; but he will venture to assert, that the proprietors of arable farms, do not put them in that condition, which would enable the tenant to make the most of them. They are indeed generally inclosed, as to their limits or boundaries with the neighbouring farms, but all within, is one great open. The leases given, being only from 7 to 9 years, and some even shorter, are considered as a discouragement to improvement. Few of the small tenants of arable farms here, can afford

ford to lay out much money upon their farms ; but even if any of them should have the spirit, to lay out part of their time and labour, in improving a piece of land, which otherwise might be of little value, from the prospect of advantage to themselves, though not immediate, upon looking forward, he is discouraged, as he finds his lease, before he had time to put his farm in order, drawing near an end ; and thus the fruit of his labour, from which he might have any return himself, is to be conveyed to another, for a trifle of more rent. For 2 or 3 years, therefore, before the end of the lease, the tenant does nothing but what brings an immediate return. The lease being so short, makes the return of these periods frequent, which must hurt the farms considerably, and consequently the proprietors themselves, ultimately. Another circumstance, which is considered as unfavourable to improvement, is, the crowding many tenants upon one farm ; 4, 6, and 8. It is well known, that no work, under the management of many, where every one claims an equal share in the direction, can go smoothly on. Different opinions may occasion some obstruction, especially if any thing, out of the common tract, is to be done. By this observation, it is not meant to put the farms into fewer hands ; but to divide them, and for the most part to have but one on each possession ; and when they happen to be larger, two. This would bring on a considerable outlay ; yet might form a source of more sure income to the proprietor, and greater comfort to the tenant. This division has been found very useful in other parts of Argyll-shire.

Miscellaneous Observations.—This not being a commercial country, money is slow in its circulation ; so that there can be no inducement for a Jew to reside in it. All the inhabitants, except 2 shepherds, are natives of this and the neighbouring parishes. Such disputes as require the investigation

of lawyers, are generally settled at Inveraray, before the sheriff of the county, and sometimes at Edinburgh.

This parish, and indeed the whole of the country, is happily free from those distractions, which seem to attend the divisions and subdivisions, with regard to religious tenets and church government, which prevail too much in different parts of Scotland. Here, all are of the Established Church.

In the year 1782, when the scarcity of meal became general in the country, though felt here very much, yet there was no absolute want, the proportion which fell to this parish, of the meal given by the Society for the Support of the Poor, being sold at Inveraray.—There have been only 3 families, during these 30 years, who have emigrated to North America. Some young men and women, go yearly to serve in the Low Country, merely in expectation of higher wages, though they generally return within a year or two. A considerable number, particularly of the cottier class, go to the harvest; some as far as the Lothians. Three families, this year, have gone to the cotton work, and some others speak of following them, though it seems to be with reluctance, as they consider the employment to be rather unfavourable to health, having formerly led an active life.—The language commonly spoken, is the Gaelic, which is the native tongue, though the English is generally a little understood even by the common people, and spoken by many*.—There is no market for butcher meat.

Such

* The derivation of the names of places seems to be from the Gaelic, and to originate from some advantage or disadvantage peculiar to the place, whether with regard to soil or exposure, or any other particular circumstance. The situation of the farm houses, seems to have given names to many places, whether at the foot or top of a hill, in a flat or a hilly part, by a river or fountain: For instance, *Achabbann*, the field by the hill, or mountain; *Achabrown*, the crooked field; *Glencheirn*, the glen by the cairn; *Tigh-a-charr*, the house by the great stone or rock; *Achenolan*, the field by the island; *Bannan*, the hilly place; *Calannie*, at the foot or back of a hill, &c. There are many similar to these, though the names of

Such as deal in that kind of provision, must slaughter for themselves, this being a species of luxury, which the ordinary class of tenants cannot afford to indulge in.—The wages of a common day labourer, at husbandry, road making, or any other work in that way, is from 1 s. to 14 d.; taylor, 8 d. and their victuals; shoemakers, 6 d.; house carpenters and masons, are generally paid by the piece, but when by the day, from 20 d. to 2 s. without victuals. A married day labourer, with 3 or 4 children, would consider 10 l. as a good prospect for a year's subsistence, with some potatoes.—The present wages would give that prospect, but the uncertainty of the weather occasions much lost time*.—No manufactures, properly so called, are carried on: There may be some spinning and knitting, in the intervals of labour by broken weather, and in the winter nights; and also dressing small parcels of lint, by the common people; but these are principally for the use of their families. There are no other manufactures, except a whisky distillery.—Property has undergone little change for a century back, till of late that an estate of 714 l. free rent, sold at 25,050 l.; and another small property, about 2 years ago, at nearly the same proportion.

of many other places, to one who has not acquired a critical knowledge of that language, may seem arbitrary, as no obvious connection appears with regard to situation, or any other circumstance.

* The prices of labour, and other things, about 40 or 50 years ago, cannot be ascertained by any written record; yet there are many people who remember these periods well, and the common prices of the times, having had frequent occasion to pay them. About the year 1745, cows sold from 25 s. to 30 s., equal to those of 4 l. and 5 l. in the present times; nor was there any great rise, for several years after that period; sheep, from 2 s. 6 d. to 3 s.; cheese much the same by the stone, being then 7 d. per lb.; butter, 6 d. The ordinary wages of female servants, by the year, was 12 merks; of male servants, from 24 merks to 30 s. of taylor, the best of them 4 d. a day, and their victuals; and of other tradesmen in proportion. Meal seems to be the article, which has undergone the least change, for these 30 years back; though variable in its price, yet it is generally from 14 s. to 16 s. the boll.

NUMBER VIII.

PARISH OF AUCHTERTOUL.

(County and Synod of Fife—Presbytery of Kirkcaldy.)

By the Rev. Mr. JOHN SCOTT.

Name, Extent and Prospect.

AUCHTER is said to be an Erse word, signifying a height; and *toul*, or *tool*, seems to be a corruption of *Teel*, the name by which a small stream of water, that rises in the parish, and runs into the sea toward the east, is distinguished. Thus Auchtertoul seems to signify the heights, or higher grounds upon the Teel. The parish is about 2 miles in length, and 1 mile in breadth. There is a small village in the parish, and the church is situated about half an English mile to the west of it. The ground about the church and manse is elevated and commanding, and takes in a fine view of the sea to the east, as far as the eye can reach, comprehending in it, the Isle of May, the Bass, North-Berwick Law, and a point of the Lothian coast, which stretches a considerable way into the sea.

Surface and Soil.—The surface of the ground is very unequal, and varied with eminences and little hills, which causes a considerable difference in the nature and quality of the soil; the land being light and thin towards the tops of the rising grounds,

grounds, and richer and deeper as you descend. The soil is light, free and open; and such parts of it, as have a warm southerly exposure, are of a good quality: But the ground toward the N. W. end of the parish, is of a worse nature, being a sour, wet, clayey soil, and better fitted for pasture than for cultivation. A few acres, in the neighbourhood, are covered with heath, and a few are soft and marshy. These last have occasionally been burnt, and for 2 or 3 years afterwards produced good crops; but they are not of such a quality as to render them fit for the purposes of general cultivation, or productive for any length of time. Several of the faces and tops of the hills and rising grounds, are interspersed and covered with whins, which render them not only unfit for cultivation, but of a trifling value even for pasture. If these were inclosed and planted, they would both serve to give a warmth and shelter to the neighbouring ground (things very much wanted in this climate), and tend greatly to improve and beautify the face of the country, by giving it a more romantic and picturesque appearance. Some gentlemen, in the neighbourhood, are beginning to plant a little on their estates. The plan, however, is making but a slow progress.

Minerals.—There are both free-stone and lime-stone in the parish; but none of them are wrought. The tenants, however, have liberty from the Earl of Moray, the proprietor, to use as much of the lime-stone as they please, for manure to their lands; a circumstance which is of material advantage to them. The ground is mostly inclosed, partly with stone dikes, and partly with hedges.

Climate and Lake.—The parish of Auchtertoul, is about 5 miles distant from the shore to the east, and 4 to the south. In consequence of this situation, the air is reckoned good and

healthy; being neither so near the sea, as to render it too thin and penetrating, nor at so great a distance from it, as to render it thick and unwholesome. There is only one small lake in the parish (*Camilla Loch*), in which there are some perch. The lake takes its name from the old house of *Camilla**, adjacent to it; which was so called after one of the Countesses of Moray, whose name was Campbell.

Population.—With respect to the ancient state of the population, it cannot be exactly ascertained. But from the register of marriages and baptisms, which extends as far back as the year 1675, compared with the registers that are kept at present, it appears to have been formerly considerably more populous than it is now. This seems owing to the practice of uniting farms, which has taken place here, as well as in many other parts of the country. What used formerly to be 2 or 3 farms, is now thrown into 1, and rented by the same tenant; so that the number of families in the parish, is thereby decreased; and as there is no trade or manufactures carried on in the village, to draw the people in from the country, the population is considerably diminished. Since 1755, that diminution has amounted to 55, the population, at present, being 334, and according to Dr. Webster's return, having been 389 souls. This taste for enlarging and uniting farms, which
seems

* Its ancient name was *Hallyards*, when it belonged to the family of the Skenes. It is said to have been the rendezvous of the Fife lairds at the rebellion in the year 1715. When James Vth of Scotland was on his road to the palace of Falkland, after the defeat of his army on the English border, under the command of Oliver Sinclair, his favourite, he lodged all night in the house of Hallyards, as he passed, where he was courteously received by the Lady of Grange, "*an ancient and godlie matrone*," as Knox calls her. It seems then to have belonged to the Kirkcaldies of Grange, a family of considerable note in the history of Scotland. It is now a ruin.

seems to be on the increase throughout Scotland, will perhaps, eventually, be unfavourable to the population of the country, and most undoubtedly to the personal character and morals of its inhabitants. It forces the people from the active, healthy employments of a country life, to take refuge in manufacturing towns and populous cities, which may literally be said to be the graves of the human species. It is accordingly observed, of towns in general, and of large manufacturing towns in particular, that the inhabitants are of a more sickly and delicate appearance, than their neighbours in the country. This may arise from the operation of various causes. From the sedentary life, to which they are accustomed, which enervates and enfeebles the constitution; from the impure and unwholesome air, which they are constantly breathing; and above all, from the habits of dissipation and profligacy, which are always too certainly contracted, in any great concourse of people. And, as it is from towns like these, that our armies and navies are mostly supplied with recruits, it is easy to see, how ill fitted, men, of such a description and mode of life, will, in time, become for defending the liberties and dearest rights of their fellow citizens, and enduring the watchings, the dangers and the toils, which are incident to the professions of the soldier and the sailor. It was the same body of men, that, on the banks of the *Tbrasymentus*, and the *Ausidus*, humbled the pride of the Roman eagle, and empurpled the field with patrician blood, who were afterwards routed on the plains of *Zama*, though still fighting under a leader the foremost in the world, whose very name was almost sufficient to secure him of victory. But the luxuries of *Saguntum*, according to the Roman historian*, had enervated and enfeebled the victorious Carthaginians, and rendered them an unequal match for the hardy Romans, over whom they had so often triumphed.

* Livy.

Evils like these, may not indeed be very sensibly perceived or felt, for a considerable time : But, though their operation may be slow, yet it will not, on that account, be the less certain; nor the less to be dreaded in its tendency and consequences, as an accelerator of national weakness and decline. But in our ardour to extend our manufactures and our commerce, and thereby to multiply the delicacies and luxuries of life, as well as to increase our taste and desire for the use of them, we perhaps but too readily forget, that human nature is but too liable to temptation and corruption, and that infirmity of body, and depravity of mind, are, sooner or later, the almost certain consequences of every great assemblage of our species. We perhaps but too readily forget, that the prosperity, the stability, and the glory of nations, do not consist so much in the *wealth*,—no, nor even in the *numbers*, of their inhabitants—as in their political, their military, and their personal character and virtues ;—as in the penetration and the depth of mind, which they are able to display, in discovering where their true interests lie ; in the promptitude and the ardour, with which they are, at all times, prepared to guard and to defend their rights ; and in the practice of those private and public virtues, which are alike conducive to the welfare and stability of kingdoms, and the perfection and aggrandisement of the species.

The present state of the population, and the division of the inhabitants, in this district, is pretty nearly as follows :

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Number of souls, - - - | 334 | Number from 20 to 30, - - | 140 |
| — of males, - - - | 148 | — 30 to 40, - - | 43 |
| — of females, - - - | 186 | — 40 to 50, - - | 10 |
| — in the village, - - | 231 | — of farmers, - - - | 9 |
| — in the country, - - | 103 | Average number of their families, - | 9 |
| — under 10 years of age, - | 89 | Number of male servants, including | |
| — from 10 to 20, - - | 54 | cotters, - - - | 31 |

Number

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Number of female ditto, - | 14 | The proportion between the | |
| — of day labourers, - | 8 | annual births and the | |
| — of wrights, - | 2 | population, is, as - | 10 to 334 |
| — of smiths, - | 1 | — between the annual | |
| — of shoemakers, - | 1 | marriages and the po- | |
| — of tailors, - | 2 | lation, as - - - | 3 to 334 |
| — of millers, - | 1 | Each marriage, at an average, | |
| — of brewers, - | 1 | produces children, - | 5 |
| — of innkeepers, - | 2 | Annual average of births, | 10 |
| — of bakers, - | 1 | — of marriages, - | 3 |
| — of weavers*, - | 17 | — of deaths, as nearly | |
| Number of examinable persons of | | as can be collected, - | 4 |
| the Established Church, 105 | | Number of inhabited houses | |
| — of Seceders, - | 20 | in the parish, - - | 80 |
| The proportion between | | Average number of persons | |
| bachelors and | | in each house, - - - | 4 |
| married men, is | | The population, in 1755, was | 389 |
| as - - - | 36 to 48 | Decrease, - - - | 55 |

Productions, Agriculture, &c.—There is no map of the parish; but, in as far as can be ascertained, there are in it from 1700 to 1800 acres; which are laid out nearly as follows :

| | | |
|-----------------|------|----------------------------|
| In pasture, - | 1135 | In turnips and cabbage, 56 |
| — sown grafs, - | 110 | — pease, - - - 14 |
| — oats, - - - | 293 | — flax, - - - 15 |
| — barley, - - - | 81 | — meadow, - - - 45 |
| — wheat, - - - | 33 | |

P 2

There

* The reason, why there is so much greater proportion of weavers in the parish, than of any other trade, is, the weaving manufactures, which are carried on, in the neighbouring towns of Kirkcaldy and Link-town of Abbotshall. It is from these, that the greatest part of our weavers receive their employment; and it is this, which draws in so many of them to settle in the village. A great part of the women too, who reside in the village, are employed in spinning lint to the same manufacturies. They spin on the two-handed wheel, and are able to earn from 6d. to 8d. per day, according to their particular alertness and dexterity.

There are pastured in the parish,

| | | | | | | | |
|--------|---|---|-----|---------|---|---|-----|
| Sheep, | - | - | 106 | Cattle, | - | - | 338 |
|--------|---|---|-----|---------|---|---|-----|

There are used in agriculture,

| | | | | | | | |
|--------|---|---|----|----------|---|---|----|
| Carts, | - | - | 24 | Ploughs, | - | - | 20 |
|--------|---|---|----|----------|---|---|----|

There is one threshing machine lately erected.—The stile of farming is, in general, carried on after the new plan of husbandry, and is much improved of late years. This seems chiefly owing to the introduction of sown grass, cabbage and turnips. The former serves to give rest and solidity to the soil, and prepares it for the production of future crops; the latter cleanses and pulverises it, and opens it to receive the influences of the sun and air, the great quickeners and fosterers of vegetation. The hay, thus raised, is sold, at an average, about 4 d. per stone, and brings a good profit to the farmer. Cattle are brought into the house, some time between Michaelmas and Martinmas, and fed on turnips for several months, when they are sold to the butcher, about the end of winter, or beginning of spring. This practice, independent of the advantage, which the ground receives, by preparing it for the turnips and cabbage, together with the weeding and hoeing which are afterwards given it, and independent of what profit is to be made of the cattle, which are sometimes bought cheap, and sold dear, gives, moreover, a great command of dung to enrich the rest of the land; a circumstance of capital importance to the country farmer, who cannot find manure to buy; and which is, of itself, perhaps, sufficient to recommend the feeding of cattle, although few other advantages attended it.

The land is generally plowed with 2 horses; except where it is wet or steep, when 3 are used. But there is a division of opinion as to the use of the new and the old plough; some preferring

preferring the one, and some the other. It is however likely, that the new will soon become the most prevalent.—The parish does more than supply itself with provisions.

Church, &c.—The Earl of Moray is patron ; and to that noble lord the whole parish belongs, excepting 1 farm, which is the property of William Wemyss, Esq. of Wemyss. Neither of the heritors reside in the parish. The stipend is, 53 bolls 3 firlots of meal ; 26 bolls 3 firlots 1 peck 2½ lippies of bear ; and 150 merks in money. The manse has been lately repaired. The church is old ; but it cannot be ascertained when it was built. The glebe is small.

Schools.—The schoolmaster's salary is 100 merks. The annual average number of scholars is about 25. The school wages are 1 s. *per* quarter for reading, and 1 s. 6 d. for writing and arithmetic. The schoolmaster is also session-clerk. The appointments for this are 13s. 6d. Sterling of salary ; with the perquisites on marriages, viz. 5 s. for feuers and tenants ; and 3 s. 6 d. for servants and householders. The records of the session extend as far back as the year 1670.

It is truly amazing, that so useful and laborious a body of men, as the schoolmasters of Scotland, should, in general, be not only so poorly appointed in salaries, but opposed so keenly by the gentlemen of landed property, in their attempts to better their situation. If it be chiefly owing to education, that man is rendered superior to the animals around him, and one man to another ; if it be a principal mean of advancing his happiness and best interests, both in this world, and that which is to come ; if, moreover, in a political view, it opens the mind to a sense of the advantages and blessings, which men derive from order and good government, in opposition to anarchy and confusion, and renders a nation less apt to be
misled

misled or convulsed, by designing and seditious men; if the rise and the fall of kingdoms, have, in all ages, been chiefly produced by moral causes; and if the morals, the opinions, and the behaviour of men, be intimately connected with the instructions they receive, and the principles they imbibe, during their early years;—if these things be so, the instruction and education of youth ought certainly to be reckoned a matter of primary concern, in every well regulated state; more especially by those, who sit at the helm of government, and are entrusted with the management of public affairs. But how is it possible, that the purposes of public instruction should be properly attained, in the present situation of many of our schoolmasters, with respect to salaries and appointments? Is it in truth to be expected, that any person, who has been at the expence of an education, sufficient to qualify him for being a teacher and instructor of youth, should betake himself to that irksome and laborious profession, when the emoluments are so poor, (in country parishes especially, where the school wages are small, and there is no opportunity of raising a large school), as to be inferior to the wages of a day labourer, or a common servant? The time will certainly come, when the eyes of the nation will be opened to their own best interests, as well as to those of their fellow creatures; and this useful body of men will be placed in circumstances, more likely to ensure the great ends of education, and public instruction, both to individuals, and the community.

Poor.—The number of persons receiving charity, at present, is 6; and they are supplied by the session, as their situation and necessities seem to require. The annual average amount of contributions at the church door, is 4l.; the money received for the use of the mort-cloth, and fines for irregular marriages, 3l.; and there is a fund of about 80l. lent out at interest.

Miscel.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The parish is supplied with coals from the neighbouring parish of Auchterderran: The distance may be from 2 to 3 miles. The price is 18 d. for as many as 2 horses can easily draw on a cart; and the same sum for driving them home.—There is 1 public road goes through the parish from E. to W. It is kept in repair by the statute labour. Each plough of land pays to it annually 10s. Sterling; half a plough pays 5 s., and downward in the same proportion. Each householder, not on the poor's roll, pays 18 d. annually.—Both men and women servants wages have risen greatly of late. Men servants used to get 6l. Sterling for the year; and women, 2l. 10s.: But a man servant, now, receives 8 l.; and a woman 3 l., for the year. The cause of this sudden rise in the wages, is the manufactures, which are carrying on in the sea coast towns, together with the repairing and making the roads through the country, which employ a great number of hands, and render servants scarce as well as dear. A day labourer's wages are 14 d. or 15 d. per day.

be well stocked with salmon ; but since the erection of a dam at Bothwell, for the use of a cotton mill, few get up, but in high floods. Some faint attempts have been made to get this grievance redressed ; but as yet they have been ineffectual.

As this parish is not much encumbered with muirs, mosses and mountains, it is mostly under the plough. The soil, however, is of very different qualities in the different regions of the district. On the river Clyde, which may be called the first and lowest region, the holm ground is of a free and fertile nature, producing (as it is said here), "meal for corn *," and sometimes more. But on the banks rising behind the holms, the ground is steep, and the soil a fine mel-low clay, many yards deep ; and is therefore, in general, covered with woods and orchards. As the ground rises to the east, in what may be called the second region, the soil is of a clay quality, with a hard bottom, requiring much labour and culture to render it productive ; but, when attended to, it sufficiently repays the farmer's industry. In the middle, or third region, about the kirk, and the estates of Kirton and Whitehall, the crofts are naturally rich and loamy, though not far from the till. But the more distant fields (the "*out-fields*" as they are here called), though plowed sometimes to keep them in proper pasture, are generally shallow and poor, with a bad bottom, and very unproductive. In the fourth and fifth regions, the soil, even in the out-fields, becomes more deep and earthy ; yet, being in some degree mixed with moss, and less favourably situated as to climate, it brings, at last, much less meal into the granary, and less money into the pocket of the farmer, who chooses to keep it under the plough.

Agriculture,

* That is to say, a boll of oats, gives a boll of meal.

Agriculture, Grass, &c.—Of late years, the manner of farming here is very much changed to the better. On the lower and more fertile grounds, the gentlemen farmers have, in some measure, adopted the practical part of Lord Kaimes's system, so far as is suited to their soil; and make also much use of the instruments of husbandry prescribed by him. In this they find their account: yet the inferior classes of farmers follow them but at a distance; for being unable to expend so much, they only copy the more easy and less expensive parts of the gentlemen's example. So far as they go, however, they reap great advantage: For after deriving much benefit from a prudent rotation of crops, they are able to lay down their ground in proper order, and to draw about 5 l. Sterling from each milk cow they pasture, and sometimes more, if the cow is so large as to be of 6 l. or 7 l. value. In the higher parts of the parish, the chief object of cultivation ought to be grass; and now, in general it is so*.—The milk

Q 2

of

* Of the mode of grass farming, in the fifth and highest region of the parish, the following plan is particularly approved of. The farm is first drained and inclosed, and, if possible, good roads are made, even through the most swampy parts of it. Such places as have already a good sward, are laid dry by a *shear feather* plough; the rushes are cut, and the field top dressed with lime or dung, or both together. To bring the ground to a proper form, a certain quantity is broke up each year; plowing it out towards the furrow, and taking a crop of oats. Before winter sets in, all that is intended to be fallowed next summer, is ribbed; that is, every third furrow is turned up. This, it is thought, has the double advantage, of opening an immense number of drains to discharge the water, and of exposing the ground to the air and frost. During summer, they continue to throw out occasionally every 3d furrow, till the whole is plowed to the level. This is called *rib-fallow*. They find, they can work it at all times, and in all weathers (frost excepted), as the fallow is always dry. Lastly, they break it across the ribs, and draw it up twice into straight ridges, from 6 to 8 feet broad, taking care, that no water lodges in any part of the field. They sow the ground, thus fallowed, with oats and grass in spring; and at any time during summer, they sow, with grass alone, such parts of the land as will admit

of their cows, mixed with pease-meal, they use in feeding their plough horses, which they find does very well, and is a great saving of oats. In the spring, they plant as many young trees, as they can well overtake, to raise shelter for their high lands. The plan mentioned in the note, has been followed on a very extensive farm, which was cultivated at great expence, being only in the infancy of its improvement. The same method is, in some measure, adopted by several farmers in the neighbourhood. It must, however, be observed, in regard to grass farms in general in the higher parts of the parish, that, to this day, some are managed as they were centuries ago; and yet, that, from the advance in the prices of cattle, calves, butter, cheese, &c. one of their little cows will bring them about 4l. or 4l. 10s. per ann. In the high grounds, therefore, it may be supposed, that they have more profit by keeping their grounds in grass, than by cultivating oats, &c. But though their grain is of a bad quality, and seldom yields more than two thirds in meal; yet in order to prevent rushes, in the wet soils, they are obliged to plough every 3d and 4th year: And, where the soil is drier, they find it necessary to plough every 5th or 6th year, to prevent it from running into heath. In regard to the rent of the parish, it has nearly doubled within these last 30 years; some say more than doubled; especially in those places, which are most favourably situated, in point of soil and climate.

Farms,

mit of it. In sowing grass, they lay dung on the surface, with lime above it; then sow and roll. When their dung is exhausted, they harrow in the lime with the seed. They endeavour to raise cabbages, carrots, turnips and potatoes, for winter feeding; yet they say, they prefer the potatoes to the turnips, after a fair trial of both. Such parts of their fallow, as they may be prevented from sowing before the end of August, by the wetness of the season, they throw into drills of 4 feet, and allow to remain till the ensuing spring.

Farms, Rents, &c.—The farms here, are not in general large. The greatest corn farms are rented at from 30 l. to 130 l. Sterling. Unless it be in the best holm ground, or near the village of Carluke (where the people pay higher for conveniency), the first kind of croft land pays from 1 l. to 1 l. 10 s. Sterling per acre. The second sort, from 10 s. to 15 s. The best out-field land (unless in more sheltered situations), from 3 s. to 6 s.; and the worst, from 2 s. to 3 s. The traveller, in passing through this parish, can form but an imperfect idea, of the quality of the ground in general, as the public roads happen to be carried through the most barren and uncultivated fields; the crofts of the villages of Carluke and Killcaigow excepted. Here the lands are rich and loamy, and the crop generally plentiful and luxuriant. On an average, the land may sell here, at from 25 to 30 years purchase. In the roll of conversion for the statute labour, the number of plough-gates, as they are here called, amount to about 68, besides cottagers, &c. As to *services*, there are none worth mentioning required of the tenants.

Orchards.—Fruit abounds more in this parish, than any other upon the Clyde, or perhaps even in Scotland*. The orchards in this district, extend about 5 miles, and are the property of many different proprietors. They comprehend,
in

*The following list contains the names of the principal apples and pears growing here, though there are many other kinds of fruit trees, not distinguished by any particular names.

APPLES.

| <i>Early, or Summer Apples.</i> | <i>Middle, or Harvest,</i> | <i>Late, or Winter.</i> |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Junetina | White Cluster | Yorkshire Greening |
| Amber | Queen of England | Nonpareil |
| Chucklet Egg | White Ledington | Green Ledington |
| Lady Apple | Bloudheart | Grey Ledington |
| | | Lady's |

in all, upwards of 80 acres of land. Many natural causes may be assigned, why this parish should be so remarkable for its fruit; particularly the following: *1st*, The soil at the bottom of the banks, being a pure clay, several yards deep, is more favourable for fruit, than even the holm ground itself: *2^{dly}*, The holm being narrow, and the banks on each side nigh to each other, the heat is greatly increased, by the rays of the sun being reflected from the opposite banks: *3^{dly}*, The banks being steep, and opening often into bosoms, afford a shelter by nature, which no art could ever produce. The *last* advantage arises, from the fortunate exposure to the S. and S.W., the most favourable that this country can possibly enjoy.

Climate,

APPLES, *continued.*

| <i>Early, or Summer Apples.</i> | <i>Middle, or Harvest.</i> | <i>Late, or Harvest.</i> |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Lady's Lemmon | Dumbarton Pippin | Winter Strawberry |
| Summer Strawberry | Whistleberry | Golden Pippin |
| Millford | Salmon | Pearmain Apple |
| American Pippin | Common Codling | Hathornden |
| Kailbed | Lemmon Pippin | Naked Apple |
| Dryly Pippin | Hamilton Pippin | Nonfuch |
| Garrison, &c. | Moncrief | Green Cluster |
| | Marrow | ——— Calendar |
| | Lady's Finger, &c. | Ely |
| | | Fulwood |
| | | Golden Monday |
| | | Grass Apple |
| | | Redstreak |
| | | Coal-house |
| | | Carsterphan |
| | | Sheep-head |
| | | Carle of Gowrie |
| | | Purse-mouth |
| | | Royal Codlin, and several sorts of Russets. |

PEARS.

Climate, Diseases, &c.—The air here, is thought to be as pure and salubrious, as in any part of Scotland. Hence few epidemical distempers have prevailed in this parish, even when raging in other places, owing perhaps to the S. and S. W. exposures, and the quick circulation of air, which our situation must necessarily occasion. There are many instances of longevity in this parish. There were 3 in the same family, (a brother and two sisters), all above 80 years of age, and alive at the same time. Two died lately at the age of 89, and other 2, who had lived to the advanced period of 99. A complete year elapsed, not long ago, without the death of a full grown person. At present, there are several people living here, all above the age of 80 *.

Springs;

PEARS.

| <i>Summer.</i> | <i>Harvest.</i> | <i>* Winter.</i> |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Fairmaid | Swan Egg | Muirfowl Egg |
| Crawford | Cornock | Achan |
| James | Bergamot | Brier Bush |
| Green Pear of Pinkie | Viccar | Winter Bergamot |
| Early Lemmon | Bush | Winter Warden |
| Lady's Lemon | Laugh | Pear Iron |
| Kedder | Gray Good-wife | Pear Wilson, &c. * |
| Gold-knap | Bishop | |
| Minister | Longville | |
| Jargonell | Pear Uffe | |
| Farrow Cow | Gray Honey | |
| Saffron, &c. | Robhind, &c. | |
| Robhind, Early | | |

* The *Blac Passion*, within these few years, has proved fatal to 6 or 8 in this parish. It is proper to mention, that injections have proved the most efficacious remedy in this disorder. A young man lately, who had been afflicted with it for 18 days, and every dangerous symptom had appeared, was entirely relieved by the frequent use of them.

Some

Springs, Minerals, Hills, &c.—There is no river or stream, of any considerable size, the Clyde only excepted, along the banks of which the parish lies for 4 or 5 miles. There are a few mineral springs, which are thought to be serviceable in curing the scurvy, stomachic complaints, &c. Calcined metals, and petrified vegetables, are found in different quarters; but there are no remarkable volcanic appearances.—Coal abounds every where. In general, however, the strata which have been as yet discovered, are thin, not exceeding 26 or 30 inches. In one quarter of the parish, indeed, mostly belonging to the Earl of Hyndford, there is one vein, or rather several rich veins, from 7 to 10 feet deep. Free-stone, lime and iron-stone, are found, almost in every part of it.—There is no eminence meriting the name of mountain. There are, however, several little hills, called *laws*, which have had, or still have
cairns

Some diseases may be stated, as arising from fancy, or a disordered imagination merely. An old man died here some time ago, who had, for upwards of 20 years, believed himself to be tormented by a magician. "This magician," as he described it, "by means of a mathematical head resembling his, opened his skull every night, and dropt into his brain red hot needles, which produced the most painful and excruciating torments." Though naturally active and laborious, this fancy at last disabled him for work. In every other respect, he was perfectly reasonable, and appeared to have the free exercise of his understanding.—There is a woman alive here at present, who has, for more than 30 years, been occasionally, assailed with a dumb spirit. When this spirit of dumbness, indeed, leaves her she makes ample amends for her long silence. But she is generally seized with it again in a year or two. She then appears to have forgot the use of speech; and, for years, her teeth are so fixed together, that it is with the utmost difficulty she can receive the necessaries of life.—A whimsical, but pious old man, died lately who, from his extreme humility, and mistaken respect to the doctrines of *grace*, resolved to abandon the practice of good works for *sin works*; lest (as he said) he should be tempted to boast of them, or to rest on them alone, to the dishonour of his Master, and as if meriting at the hand of God. Of his having adhered to his resolution, a female domestic gave to the world, about 9 months after, a *pregnant and living proof*.

cairns of stones upon them, and bear marks of great antiquity. In the great cairn of Mauldſlie Law, there was lately found an urn, of a round, or rather oval form, in which had been deposited the bones of a human being. In digging nigh the top of the hill, great quantities of ashes and burnt materials were found. On the S. W. corner of the hill, there is a place which still retains the name of Gallowlie. There, the gallows stood, on which, during the reign of the feudal system, the ancient barons were wont to execute offenders. The prison, with a dark subterraneous vault under it, stood near the top of the hill. Of these *Laws* as they are called, there are no less than 6 in this parish: those of *Mauldſlie, Carluke, Killcaigow, Garby, King's* and *Cock Laws*. From the King's Law, on the N. E. corner of the parish, a part of 13 or 14 shires may be seen, when the atmosphere is favourable. On Mauldſlie Law, there were more cairns than one. In the greater part of those above mentioned, human bones have been found by the farmers, in urns of different sizes.

Villages.—There are several villages; but all of them on the decline, except Bradwood and Carluke. The causes of this, in the more remote villages, appear to be, the constant drain to the manufacturing towns of Glasgow, Paisley, &c.; the number of hands employed in the coal, iron, and cotton works in the neighbourhood, and the inclination which many farmers, in the decline of life, now have, to lay out what money they may have saved, on building houses adjoining to the public roads, or in such villages as these roads run through, where something may be easily gained, and their money better secured, than in the hands of their brother farmers, of whom many, of late, have failed. There are indeed many farm-houses built lately in this parish, on new improvements. But

the village of Carluke increases more rapidly than any other. From consisting, about 24 years ago, of 4 or 5 houses, with little trade, it is now advanced to a large and decent village; so that it finds employment for a surgeon, a baker, a vintner, and several grocers. There are also in it, butchers, weavers, stocking-makers, masons, tailors, wrights, inn-keepers, road-makers, haberdashers, and coopers; and even some milliners and mantua-makers, in the town, or near to it. A new village, it is said, is soon to be built, or fenced out, on the road leading to Killcaigow, under the patronage of the Messrs. Glens; and a cotton work to be erected nigh it, to be driven by a steam engine.

Heritors and Population.—There are, in all, about 60 heritors of this parish, of whom 40 pay stipend. The Earl of Hyndford, the principal heritor, has his seat here; and, in May 1792, laid the foundation of his new castle, at Mauldflic. The number of inhabitants, though upon the increase, is not so great as might have been expected. The reasons already assigned, in a great degree, account for it. In 1755, the whole inhabitants of the parish were stated by Dr. Webster at 1459. They amounted, about 25 years ago, to 1592: and in August 1792, the number was 1730. From the parish register (which perhaps is not very accurately kept), it would appear, that the annual average of births, marriages and burials, for 10 years past, is as follows: births, 40; marriages, 18; burials, 28. The proportion between males and females, for the same length of time, appears to be, nearly, as 11 to 10.

Ecclesiastical State, &c.—There is only one place of public worship in this parish, and one established minister. The
kirk

kirk is a very old one, 90 feet long. There are still to be seen within its walls, several vestiges of the Roman Catholic worship, viz. The fount, vestry, &c. with a chancel and choir to the east; all which shew, that it must have been built before the Reformation. There are here, neither Jews, Papists, nor Episcopalians. The manse was built about the beginning of this century; was repaired, and declared sufficient to the present incumbent, about 29 years ago; but another repair was found necessary very lately.

Kirk Lands, Religious Houses, &c.—In this parish, there are some kirk lands that pay no stipend, but have been burdened with grafts to the minister, viz. the two farms of Kirton and Kirstile. On the S. E. near the house of Lee, there is a religious house, or hermitage, of great antiquity, which is called *St. Oswald's Chapel*; and nigh to it there is a small field, called *Friar's Croft*, which sufficiently indicates its origin. On the W. corner of the parish stood another Popish chapel, of which there is now no vestige. The place where it stood, still retains the name of *Chapel Yard*; and the remains of it, it is said, were dug up by the present proprietor. Both these chapel yards, and the lands adjacent, pay stipend to the minister, in common with the rest of the parish. So also do the Hospital lands of Easter, Wester and Middle Seats (called *Hospital Shields*). These Hospital lands pay annually to the family of Lee the sum of 60 merks (20 merks each), which that family is obliged by charter to repay annually, along with 20 merks from St. Leonard's Lands, Lanark, to the poor of the parishes of Carluke and Lanark. The reddendo of each charter was lately called for, and now recorded in the parish register here*.

R 2

Schools

* When the huts in the higher grounds were only yell-shields (or shields for yeld and young cattle), with huts for the residence of such as attended them in the

Schools and Poor.—A new school house was built here very lately, and a salary of 200 meiks Scotch settled on the school-master.

the summer season, the original farm houses on the Clyde were called *Mains*, and seem to have been the mansion houses (as in the North Highlands to this day), where the principal part of the family resided throughout the year. Such were the Mains of Mauldslee, Milton, Waygateshaw, Bradwood and Heads: all comprehending, at a former period, lands running up into the higher part of the parish.—There are, in this parish, 3 places also called Halls, which merit some attention. *Hall-Bar*, *Hall-Craig*, and *Hall-Hill*. *Hall-Bar*, in the south of the parish, is an ancient square tower, of a venerable appearance, with a battlement and garden on the top. There is a concealed stair leading up to the battlement and garden. It is built upon a rock, in a picturesque, romantic, and very inaccessible situation. It is evident, from its form and situation, it must at some period have been a place of strength; but the traditions concerning it are very uncertain. Though the lands of Bradwood, around it, have been seued out by the families of Lauderdale and Carnwath, they have chosen to retain this tower and small garden, with free “ish and entry,” which they only rent at about 10 s. Sterl. per annum; from which it is probable they considered it as a valuable piece of antiquity. Whether it has ever belonged to the Lockharts of Bar, in Ayrshire, is not known.—*Hall-Craig* is a modern house at present; but on the promontory of the rock on which it stands, it appears, that there was formerly a place of strength, from which it has got its name. A part of the old hall is yet visible on the very pinnacle of the rock. The vestiges of some walls and vaults have been discovered within the garden; and lately, there was dug up, when dressing the ground, a causeway, leading in to the point of the promontory.—*Hall-Hill* is adjacent to the Earl of Hyndford's new gardens, near to the site of the Old Abbey, referred to in the beginning of this account. As this hill stands just at the entrance to the holm, or rather on the holm itself, it may, from this circumstance, more probably have derived its name, than from its vicinity to the old hall of Mauldslee, which stood more than 200 yards to to the N. W. in a lee, or sheltered situation, beyond the rivulet. Perhaps it should be called Haugh-Hill; it being a singular thing for a hill to be in a haugh or holm. The base of this little green mount is evidently artificial, and its contents, except a small part on the west, a rich, black earth from top to bottom. Many human bones have been discovered in it. A man digging into the hill lately, on the south side, struck upon a large quantity, as if part of a charnel house. The incumbent, when walking upon it, found several human
bones

master. Though the fees were lately increased, yet they are still such as not to bear hard upon the poor, and at the same time

bones, thrown up lately by planting young trees upon it. Having made a pit on the top, to the depth of 6 feet, even there, many bones were discovered; and the soil itself, at that depth, was much blacker than any croft in the parish. That he might satisfy himself with regard to the bones being human, he shewed them to several medical gentlemen, who all assured him that they were. It is therefore presumable, that this hill was the family tumulus, where the *Mills* of Mauldslic were buried; and for that reason might have been originally called *Haugb-Kill*, in opposition to *Haigowis-Kill* (or *Hadzowis-Kill*), which lies in the highest part of the parish: *Kill*, in Gaelic, signifying a tomb. This circumstance alone, however, can scarcely account for such a vast quantity of bones, and rich black earth, in one tumulus. It is therefore probable, as this little hill is so nigh the site of the old Abbey, that, about 3 or 4 centuries ago, when the parish increased so as to be inhabited towards the Shields, and when the kirk was found necessary to be erected at Carluke, as more convenient for the whole inhabitants; that at that time, this tumulus would be made the repository of the bones and consecrated earth that would be found in the Abbey-Steads at removing the kirk, and turning the sacred ground into such pasture, or arable ground, as the spirit of these superstitious times would permit. There are 3 circumstances that seem to favour this conjecture. *First*, The ground where the Abbey stood, is now a clay of as pure a quality, and white colour, as the adjoining fields; which, without some excavation, can scarcely be supposed, after being a burial place for perhaps near 1000 years. *Secondly*, The whole earth on the mount, appears of a blacker and much richer quality than any to be found (but in kirk-yards), within many miles of it, even blacker and richer than the fattest earth in the oldest burying ground in Carluke kirk-yard; this last having been only employed as burying ground for 3 or 4 centuries at most. *Thirdly*, It does not appear, that the family of Mauldslic had taken up any burying ground at the kirk of Carluke till about the end of last century, when their present aisle was built. From this it is probable, that the family, before that time, must have buried somewhere else than at Carluke. It does not appear, that they had buried on the Abbey Steads, as there is no tradition, or visible vestige of it. It is therefore probable, that they buried their dead on the top of the tumulus, where the whole sacred earth of the Abbey Steads had been collected. Accordingly, the summit was flattened, and so continues to this day. Stones have tumbled from it, which appear to have been used, either in a tomb, or some building of decent architecture.

time afford good encouragement for the labours of the teacher *. The emolument, on the whole, may be from 30 l. to 35 l. Sterling per annum.

As this parish abounds with coal, and, in the higher parts, also, with peat and turf, it is more burdened with poor than some others. Upon an average, there are no less than 30 constantly upon the poor's list; and the amount of the annual distribution, is, I believe, about 80 l. Sterling. This sum is raised, partly from the interest of money mortified for that purpose, and partly from collections at the kirk. But what further may be required, to satisfy the necessary annual demand, is, according to act of parliament, appointed by the heritors to be levied from the heritors and householders; each of these classes being burdened with one half of it. Such heritors, however, as reside within the parish, besides paying as heritors, pay also as householders, as they occupy houses and farms, which otherwise being rented to tenants, would have borne their proportion of the householders half in the assessment. But, in order to assess properly, and to be judge of the necessary demand for the time, the heritors meet, according to act of parliament, on the first Tuesdays in February and August, to determine on these matters †.

Roads,

* The schoolmaster's fees, per quarter, are as follows :

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|---|---|
| English, | - | - | - | - | - | - | L. 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Common rules of arithmetic, | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Higher parts of arithmetic, | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Latin, | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| For English, from the poor, | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 1 | 0 |

† See Lord Kames's Abridgement. If a female, who is able to spin, but is lazy, is, after giving an inventory and disposition, put upon the poor's list, the heritors give her only in proportion to what she earns; a fourth, a third, or half perhaps, according as she appears to need. Before, however, she can receive this, she must produce the yarn merchant's attestation of what she spins.

Roads, &c.—Through this parish there is one great turnpike road, leading from Glasgow to Peebles, &c. It is well made, and has on it several toll-bars, though none in this district. At the village of Carluke, a branch goes off to Lanark, made by the statute labour. Since the statute work was converted into money, the parish roads are, in every respect, improved; so that the communication is now more easy, and the farmers property, adjoining to the roads, secured from damage*.

Mills,

* With respect to articles of provision, their prices of late have very much advanced; so that, where the farmer has many commodities to dispose of, he can afford to live easy, pay a reasonable rent to the proprietor, and even spend something extraordinary himself. Fowls, eggs, butter, veal, lamb and mutton, all sell at very high prices. Within these last 20 years, they are doubled; which is severely felt by annuitants of every description. Beef and mutton, in the markets here, are equal in quality to any in Edinburgh or Glasgow; and they sell nearly at the same rate. Horses and cows have also doubled their price within these 20 or 30 years. Amidst these revolutions, the poor farmer of a few acres, at 10 l. or 20 l. rent, who can with difficulty support his family on the produce of his small farm, suffers the most. He has nothing to sell, perhaps something to purchase. The cottagers and day-labourers, when compared with him, are affluent and comfortable. It is natural to inquire, whence this increase of price in every article of provision (grain alone excepted) can arise? Is it that the number of consumers have multiplied in an equal proportion to this advance?—or that the modern modes of farming have diminished, rather than increased the quantity produced?—No: the increase of the consumers, upon the whole, is by no means in proportion to this advance of price, as we see from the statistical accounts already published; and we know from fact, that many farms bring more than double in the market, and none less, than they used formerly to do. Whence then does it proceed? Among the many other causes to which this may be ascribed, perhaps the principal one is, the great increase of banks in Scotland and England, and the enormous quantity of paper which they circulate, which sinks the value of money, inasmuch, that in purchasing many of the necessaries of life, a sum of money will not go half so far as it used to do. And though the different kinds of grain are more stable and fixed in their prices than other things, this is evidently owing to the corn laws with respect to importation, of which the farmers complain so loudly.

Mills, &c.—In this, and the whole higher parts of Clydesdale, there are no mills for grinding wheat, which is a great disadvantage. In this parish, however, there are 5 common corn mills. The first, and probably the only corn mills in this country for some time, were these of Mauldslie, which perhaps may have derived its name from *molo*, to grind. The mills of Mauldslie appear to have comprehended, at first, what is now called Milton, and also 3 or 4 mills on the lower part of Carluke Burn. At that time, there was a wooden bridge (the vestiges of which are yet visible), fitted up in the rocks at Milton, to make the communication to these mills easier from the south and west on the opposite side of the Clyde: and farmers on the east, at the distance of about 7 miles, were bound, by charters, to grind at the mills of Mauldslie. It appears also, that, about 500 years ago, King Robert Bruce was proprietor of these mills; for it is recorded, that he granted 10 merks Sterling, out of his mills of Maldslay (so it was then written), for the purpose of keeping a lamp perpetually burning upon the tomb of St. Machute at Lismahago*. There was lately found, near the foot of the parish, the remains of a hand-mill, which had been used for grinding before the period of water mills. It is a very large whin, or muir, stone, so scooped into the form of a large basin, as to receive a lesser stone corresponding to it, with a handle.

Antiquities, Eminent Men, &c.—Some Scotch coins, as ancient as Alexander I. have been found in this parish, both at Chapel-Yard, and St. Oswald's Chapel. From S. E. to N. W. runs the Roman Road, called here *Wutling's Street*, (perhaps a corruption of *Vitellius's Street*). In some places, especially at Killcaigow-Law, it is still so visible, that the manner of its

* See Spotiswood.

its formation can easily be ascertained. The Romans appear to have placed broad stones in the bottom of the road, where the ground was soft, and broke others very small, with which they covered him. Roman coins at Burnhouse and Castle-hill were found in the direction of this road, and a description of them was lately given in the Scots Magazine.—Robert Cockburn, A. M. aged 89, who wrote many tracts in favour of Christianity, died, and was buried here a few years ago. This parish gave birth to Major General William Roy, whose character and abilities as a mathematician, &c. are well known *. Here also were born, the Reverend Dr. Robert Dick, late minister of Edinburgh, and the Reverend Mr. James Roy of Prestonpans; both very eminent in their profession.

Miscellaneous Observations.—Two countrymen in this parish, have long employed their ingenuity in endeavouring to discover the *perpetuum mobile*; but, like all others who have embarked in the same cause, their attempts have as yet been unsuccessful.—Some time ago, a woman in this parish brought her husband six children at two successive births. The three first are alive, and doing well.—A few years ago, a young woman was married to an old man of 80, who, after living for some time with his spouse, gradually declined and died. The relations began to divide his little estate among them, in conformity to the will of the deceased; when, to their great surprise, the *disconsolate* widow discovered symptoms of fruitfulness, and, precisely 8 months and 16 days after the old man's death, gave to the world a fine sprightly youth, who now inherits the whole property of the deceased.—Though the people here, are, in general, of the ordinary size, yet an old man died some time ago, of the age of 90, who was about 7 feet

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* See Scots Magazine for July 1790.

in height; and there are at present some alive, 6 feet and upwards.—In the year 1789, the orchards in this parish produced such a plentiful crop, as to yield in all, for fruit, above 500l. Sterling, besides about 200l. for the under growth.—On March 12th 1782, the river Clyde rose so high (being, in the more confined places, about 4 feet higher than ever known), that several mills on the other side were swept away, and the ground on this side much damaged, by being cut with the stream, and covered with gravel. In the same year, and also in 1783, the people in this parish, like many others, were in very great want of grain, occasioned by the general failure of the crops. What they had from their farms, was much damaged, especially on the higher grounds; but, by occasional supplies of pease from Leith, and the kind attention and liberal contributions of the more opulent heritors, the poor here were so well provided for, that none of them suffered from want.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—The principal disadvantages, under which this parish labours, appear to be the following:—Though the ground stands much in need of dung, and some of it cannot be made very productive by lime alone, yet, by lying at a distance from large towns, that sort of manure cannot easily be procured, but in the small quantities which the farmers themselves produce.—This being a clayey country, in some places, during the drought of summer, the cattle are at a loss for want of water, and are thereby liable to certain diseases, well known to the farmer, which, in the woody part of the country, are particularly prevalent.—As there is a continual drain from the parish, both of young men and women, to the neighbouring cotton mills, iron works, &c. the farmer is often at a loss for labourers; and servants wages are thereby rendered much higher, than the master can well afford

afford at present, being, from 6 l. to 10 l. per annum for a man; and, from 3 l. to 4 l. for a woman. A young and vigorous day-labourer, can, with difficulty, be procured; and (viſtuals excluded), he receives, from 14 d. to 15 d. a day, during the ſummer; ſo that the farmers now begin to perceive, that it is their intereſt to encourage cottagers, and to ſubmit to the riſk of being thereby burdened with a heavier poor's rate. Indeed, as we are in this pariſh attentive to the poor, and well ſupplied with fuel, we have generally many labourers reſorting here in the decline of life; but from them no labour of importance can be expected, for any conſiderable time; and, unleſs we are watchful, in terms of law, they may ſoon become a burden upon the pariſh.—From the quick declivity of this pariſh, the ground is apt to be waſhed down much faſter by the rains, than in other places; ſo that the manure laid upon it, is ſooner exhausted; and the ditches, by collecting a larger body of water, ſtand in need of conſtant repair, and in ſome ſteep ſituations, can ſcarcely be at all kept up.—In the clayey part of the diſtrict, the materials with which the roads are made, partaking of the nature of the ſoil, and being of a ſoft quality, the roads themſelves ſtand in need of conſtant attention and expence.—Being expoſed to the high winds in harveſt, the crop, when ripened, is in danger, and therefore, in prudence, it muſt be cut down, ſooner than we would otherwiſe chooſe to do. In the lower part of the pariſh, however, they are expoſed, during the hay and corn harveſt, to great inconveniences in wet ſeaſons, from the want of a free circulation of air.

But though the pariſh labours under theſe diſadvantages, yet there are alſo circumſtances in its favour, which tend to counterbalance them. Being at a moderate diſtance from Glaſgow, and within a few miles of 2 iron works, and 3 cotton mills, commodities of all kinds are ſold to good advantage.—Though

there is a scarcity of dung here, yet we are well supplied with coal and lime, and in some places with moss and turf for compost. And the land is of such a quality, that it does not of itself (like a weak or sandy soil), soon exhaust what is imparted to it.—Though we are so nigh public works as to insure the sale of every commodity, we are separated at such a distance from them, as to be less in danger of having the younger people corrupted by them, in their morals and principles*.

Character.—The character of the people, in general, is very respectable; and it is much to their honour, that, after living

* The utility of the following regulations has been sensibly felt by the inhabitants here. 1. Disputes having often arisen with regard to particular burying grounds, a plan of the whole kirk-yard was lately formed (in which different layers, after a public advertisement, were accurately ascertained, by marking and describing every man's property, in regular order, upon it, with his name and number, beginning at a certain corner of the kirk-yard), which was lodged, with a corresponding catalogue, in the hands of the parish-clerk, to which every person may now have recourse, when occasion requires. 2. The inconvenience and loss by acts of theft, &c. which many sustain by encouraging the vagrant poor of other parishes, we have endeavoured to prevent here, not only by making liberal provision for the poor of this parish, and restraining them from strolling, under the penalty of a forfeiture of their allowance; but also by following out strictly the rule of St. Paul, "If any would not work, neither should he eat." (2 *Thess.* iii. 10.) and the laws of our country with respect to idle vagrants. (See *Lord Kaim's Abridgement*). 3. Many orchards upon the Clyde having of late been much injured, by some malicious persons, the gentlemen here have contributed liberally towards the establishment of a fund, for prosecuting according to law, and bringing to deserved punishment, such atrocious offenders in future; and it is found to have a very good effect. 4. As in many places, children at school suffer much, even under the care and attention of the most able and faithful teachers, from the scholars being more numerous than any one man can possibly do justice to, the heritors of this parish have resolved to obviate, in some degree, this inconvenience by the following provision: Should the number of scholars at any time amount to more than 50, the parish schoolmaster is obliged to employ an assistant for the benefit of his lower classes. This assistant he generally chooses from among the more advanced of his scholars.

living among them for about 30 years, the present incumbent can say with truth, that they are in general of good understandings, moderate in their views, and of humane dispositions. Among those who attend the Established Church, there is scarce an instance, either of wild enthusiasm, or of a persecuting and cruel spirit. Profanity, drunkenness, swearing, dishonesty, &c. are by no means prevalent. The general body of the people, are regular in their attendance on public worship, sober and virtuous. No child murder has been known to be committed here in the memory of man. The discipline of the church has been always exercised with mildness. In ordinary cases, only one appearance is now required, and antenuptial fornication dismissed with a sessional rebuke, like a private marriage; so that none are hardened by frequent appearances; and marriage is encouraged in all. To conclude; in some parts of this parish, much benefit is derived from the great improvement which has been lately made, by gentlemen of taste and public spirit, in the houses of their tenants.— By being built neat and commodious, well aired, and properly lighted, they are found to cherish, among those who inhabit them, a spirit of cleanliness and cheerfulness, and to contribute materially to their health. In such places accordingly, the people can live with more comfort and happiness than formerly; they associate more frequently together; they cultivate their farms more vigorously; they procure better prices for their commodities; and, being thus enabled to dress more decently, and to make a better appearance on public occasions, they have thence an additional inducement, to attend with more regularity, the important ordinances of religion.

NUMBER IX.

PARISH OF CANISBAY.

*(County of Caithness.)**By the Rev. JOHN MORISON, D. D.**Origin of the Name.*

ITis not known that the parish ever had any other name, than what it now bears. Canisbay has been supposed by some to have been originally written Canonsbay; others conjecture it to have some connection with the Latin vocable *Canis*. It is, however, more probable, that Canute's-Bay was its first appellation, in honour of the arrival of some Norwegian chief of the name of Canute. There is indeed no account of the descent of such a chief upon the coast, nor is there any bay in the parish now denominated Canisbay. But as all the places of the least note in the parish, are clearly of Norwegian derivation, it cannot be supposed, that the name of the district itself should be an exception.

Situation and Extent.—The parish of Canisbay being the most northern land in the island of Great Britain, is situated in the latitude of $58^{\circ} 45'$ N., about 2° of W. longitude from
London.

London. The figure of the parish is remarkable for its regularity, exhibiting to the eye the exact quadrant of a circle, the arch of which divides it from the neighbouring parishes towards the land, and the two containing sides from the seas that wash its coasts; Dungisbay Head is in the vertex of this quadrant, from which the coast stretches in a straight direction due S. and due W. till it meets with Wick parish on one hand, and Dunnet on the other. Each of these lines may be reckoned 8 English miles in extent. The whole surface of the parish may be computed to occupy about 50 square miles or upwards.

Soil, Surface, &c.—Canisbay is rather a level than a hilly district. The Warth Hill is of considerable height and magnitude, and is the only one in the parish deserving the name. The Loch of Mey is about 2 Scotch miles in circumference. There is no river, and only a few rivulets (the chief of which is the Burn of Frefwick), in the whole parish. A single stone (sea-rock excepted) of any considerable magnitude, is no where to be seen above the surface of the earth. There are mineral and fresh water springs in abundance. The former are all of the chalybeate kind. There is one of excellent quality near the old castle of Frefwick. Heath in general prevails, where agriculture has not reached. There are, however, considerable tracts of green pasture land, in different districts of the parish, which require only the advantages of cultivation to be made productive. A light black loam, with an intermixture of moss, is, where cultivation prevails, the general character of the soil. The rest is entirely moss, reaching, in some places down to the sea brink, and yielding peats in the greatest abundance, and of as good quality as any in the kingdom.

kingdom. The lands about Mey, belonging to the Earl of Caithness, have an intermixture of clay.

Climate.—The climate is distinguished by variable, rather than tempestuous weather. Remote from the mountains, which attract moisture and occasion rain, fair weather is not unusual. The winters are generally mild and open, frosts are seldom intense, or of long continuance. The snow never thickens to any depth, and the coast is scarcely sprinkled by it, while in more inland parishes it lies to a considerable depth. The level situation of the parish, and the sea surrounding it on every side but one, may be regarded as the causes of this temperature. The summers in Canisbay, for the same reason, are temperately cool; and high winds are, in general, more prevalent than heavy rains. The *Aurora Borealis* begins to exhibit itself about the middle of harvest. In no part of Britain is it to be seen to more advantage. At times, from the shifting brilliancy of its vivid commutations, the whole heavens seem to be in motion: at other times a settled bloody tinge prevails over all the sky; and on these occasions, the whole phenomenon appears truly awful and magnificent. All its appearances seem to prove that it is the effect of electricity.

Longevity and Diseases.—There are few districts where more good health is enjoyed than in Canisbay. The inhabitants in general live to a good old age. There are several at present in the parish betwixt 90 and 100. Many die at an advanced age, without the recollection of a day's illness in the course of their lives. The most prevalent illnesses among the people, are those arising from obstructed perspiration, owing to the variableness of the weather, and perhaps still more, to the raw and unwholesome vapours transfused into the atmosphere they breathe, from the extensive tracts of fen, muir and moss in their

their vicinity, while colds, coughs, and rheumatisms are not unfrequent. Fevers prevail as little here, perhaps, as in any corner of the world. Inoculation is not yet in general practice; but though few escape the small pox, the disease is seldom mortal. Indeed, most other diseases are extremely rare. Few parishes, therefore, give less trouble or emolument to physicians, than Canibay.

Population. There are 382 families in the parish, including those in the island of Stroma. The number of males is 881, and of females 1069, total 1950. The return to Dr. Webster in 1755, was only 1481 souls. The population has therefore increased 469 within these 40 years. The advancement of civilization, the free enjoyment of property, a better cultivated soil, the multiplicity of families on small farms, and more extensive employment in fishing and the other maritime occupations, may be considered as the operative sources of this increase. As these causes acquire additional energy, proportional effects may be expected. Were the waste grounds cultivated, and some little branches of manufacture established, the yearly produce of the soil, and the number of souls in the parish, might amount to a third more, than what they now are. The following list shews the number of births, deaths, and marriages, for the last 4 years:

| <i>Years.</i> | <i>Births.</i> | <i>Deaths.</i> | <i>Marriages.</i> |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1787 | 65 | 19 | 12 |
| 1788 | 70 | 23 | 13 |
| 1789 | 66 | 18 | 12 |
| 1790 | 73 | 27 | 16 |

Rent and Proprietors.—The whole valued rent of the parish amounts to 3855 l. 3 s. 6 d. Scotch. The real rent may be computed at about 1300 l. Sterling. From 1200 to 1500 bolls of victual are yearly exported, besides maintaining the inhabitants. Land is divided into what are called penny lands, halfpenny lands, farthing lands, and osets. Eight osets are reckoned equal to 12 acres. The rent of an acre, at an average, is not below a guinea. In some places it is 30 s. or upwards. The Earl of Caithness, Robert Sinclair, Esq. of Frefwick, and the family of Brabster, are the only proprietors in the parish. Brabster is an inland property, lying in the centre of the district. All the other cultivated lands are situated on the coast, extending, at an average, about half an English mile from the shore. There are also frequent interjections of moss and moor, reaching down to the sea coast, and dividing one cultivated district from another.—Hence it is apparent, how small a proportion of this extensive parish is as yet brought into cultivation.

Cultivation and Produce.—The medium extent of farms does not exceed the sum of 9 l. Sterling yearly rent. By this multiplicity of families, the soil is brought up to the highest pitch of cultivation.—Oats and barley, in alternate crops, with the addition of some flax and potatoes, are the sole objects of agriculture. The soil, at an average, yields about 5 returns of oats, and above 7 of barley; but in some particular spots, no less than 11 returns of barley have been reaped.—From Martinmas till spring, the dung of the cattle is left in the byre; a bedding of dry earth or peat mold is thrown above it every day, which mixes with the dung, and, at the same time, keeps the cattle warm and dry. A cart load of this compost is reckoned more valuable as a manure, than three of pure dung, particularly, if thrown out and exposed to the weather through

through the winter ; but the principal manure along the coast, is tang or sea ware : it comes ashore in the greatest abundance during the spring months, when it is most needed. A wind blowing from the land brings the ware from the sea.— This manure is solely appropriated to the barley crop. It is a powerful cleanser of the soil, coalesces with it in the shortest space, exerts and exhausts its nutritive virtues in the nourishment of one crop. In whatever manner it is laid upon the field, it is a manure of the first estimation. Dunghills consisting of earth and ware, of 6 or 12 month's standing, seem the most eligible preparation of this valuable manure for the soil. From the constant use of sea-ware as a manure, along with the constituent qualities of the soil, the cultivated lands in most parts of the parish, are as fine and friable as garden mould, and are cultivated in general with less strength, than, comparatively speaking, is found requisite in other places of the country. The soil being perfectly clear of latent rock, the plough is made of the slightest construction ; and, in general, both plough and cattle do not exceed 10 l. Sterling in value *.

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Proposed

* Oats are begun to be sown about the first week of April, and barley about the 12th of May, nor is the season gone for the sowing of the latter so late as the 21st of June. Harvest begins about the 1st of September, and is in general finished in the course of a month. Gray and black oats are the common growth of the parish, as they are over all Caithness. They unquestionably accord better with the soil and climate, than the white oats. The latter is not only a greater robber of the soil, but is far more liable to shake in harvest, than the former. Bread of the white oats is stronger, and perhaps somewhat fairer, but by no means superior in taste and mellowness.—A man servant gets little short of 3 l. Sterling *per annum*, and a woman half as much. Day labourers are seldom employed : They may be had at about 9 d. *per day* without victuals. Mason and joiner work is fully higher than in any part of Scotland. Carts are in common use throughout the parish.

Proposed Improvements.—As neither inclosures nor winter herding, have as yet taken place, green crops are of course unattended to, among the common people. The proprietors and gentlemen, whose attention is directed to farming, carry on their operations on a more liberal and extensive plan. Improvers, conversant in every branch of agricultural employment; with farms worth 100 l. or upwards, of yearly rent; inclosures, green crops, implements of the most approved construction, and labouring cattle of due size and estimation, are what justly entitle them to the appellation of farmers. Their praise would be great indeed, if, by granting longer leases to the tenants, they could persuade them once to begin the business of inclosing, and the culture of waste ground, which cries aloud, and has cried for ages, for the advantages of the spade and the plough. In former times, and even these not long elapsed, unlimited services were unquestionably a part of the equivalent, which tenants paid for the lands they occupied. Besides money and victual, a vast variety of different articles was demanded from the farmer. A system of that sort suggests a variety of reflections, with which the dignity and happiness of man are deeply connected. These customs, as they are called, are now for the most part converted into money. Unlimited services are no longer exigible. In one half of the parish, two days in spring, and two in harvest, are the stipulated service; nor is this invariably exacted. From the operation of present arrangements, in a very short time the other half will be equally free. *Emancipation* is every where prevailing, and the monster *Feudalism* is hiding his head in shame.

Black Cattle and Pasturage.—Canisbay, notwithstanding its boundless extent of hill pasture, is not to be reckoned a cattle parish. To descend to a particular enumeration, of the horses and

and black cattle in it, could answer little purpose, when it can be asserted as a fact, that not above one third, of the toals or calves, is reared and brought up in the parish, that are necessary for the culture of the soil. Grass is one of the principal wants we have to complain of. The arable soil is so precious, that the farmer thinks, he could not bear turning any part of it into grass. The want of inclosures and winter herding, precludes him from the advantages of green crops. The best grass farm in the parish lies on the north coast, about an English mile from Dungisbay Head. It is sufficient for the support of 30 cows, and yields butter, which, for colour and quality, is deservedly held in the highest estimation.

Sheep.—It is not believed, that the whole sheep in the parish at present exceed 2000. Foxes, dogs, bad seasons, and, above all, the inattention of the owners, are the causes of the diminution of their number, to a third part of what they formerly were. They are far from being of a very good quality, either for wool or mutton; nor has any attempt been made to meliorate the breed. The parish in general is not naturally possessed of pasturage favourable for the rearing of sheep. There is one place in it, however, that seems to recommend itself for the pasturage of sheep, and for nothing else.—This is *Dungisbay Head* and its environs, which might be adequate to the support of 600 or 700 sheep. The Head itself is every where covered with green to the very brink of the surrounding rock, with an intermixture of short young heath. The situation is dry and the air wholesome. The Head communicates with the *Wartb Hill*, which would relieve the pasturage occasionally. Upon the whole, it is hardly to be doubted, that sheep would prosper on this pasture, if duly attended to; and it were greatly to be wished, that the proprietor or possessor would make the experiment.

Swine,

Swine, &c.—There is a superabundance of swine throughout the parish: they are of a small size, fatten well, and their flesh is peculiarly tender and delicate; but the damage they do, in the winter season, to the grass and corn lands, as they are allowed to roam at large, far exceeds any advantages, that can accrue from the rearing of them. Geese and other poultry are also in great plenty, though not above half the number are reared, since what was payable in kind to the proprietor, has been converted into money.

Average value of the above Animals.

| | | L. | s. | d. | |
|----------|---|----|----|----|---|
| An ox, | - | 3 | 0 | 0 | Beef sells at $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. |
| A cow, | - | 2 | 10 | 0 | |
| A horse, | - | 3 | 0 | 0 | Mutton at 2 d. |
| A sheep, | - | 0 | 6 | 0 | |
| A sow, | - | 0 | 12 | 0 | Pork at 2 d. |
| A goose, | - | 0 | 1 | 6 | |
| A hen, | - | 0 | 0 | 5 | A dozen of Eggs $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. |

Coasts.—Dungibay Head, the *Berabium* of Ptolemy, is situated in the N. E. corner of the island of Great Britain, where the line of the coast, from a northern direction, turns directly due west, and continues its course, till it reaches Cape Wrath, with little or no variation in its rectilinear direction. This beautiful promontory is of a circular shape, about 2 miles in circumference. Towards the sea, which encompasses two thirds of the Head, it is one continued precipice. On the land side, you descend by a gentle slope into a deep valley, having a small mossy rivulet running through it, which terminates the Head on that quarter. Near the top of the rock, and on that side which faces the Orkneys, there is a vast gulph or cavern, (called, by the neighbouring inhabitants, the *Glupe*); stretching all around perpendicularly down, till its dusky

dark bottom comes on a level with the sea, with whose waves it holds communication, by an opening at the base of the intervening rock. The bridge betwixt this fearful chasm, and the edge of the main rock, towards the sea, is about six yards wide. On the highest part of the head, about 50 yards from the edge of the precipice, there are to be seen indubitable marks of some house, or mansion, heretofore erected by the hand of man. Its base, which is all that now remains, is perfectly circular, and about 20 feet wide. It has probably been occupied as a watch tower, or place of observation, corresponding with another, the vestiges of which are to be seen on the top of Warth hill, at about the distance of 2 miles.

South from the Head, for about 5 miles, the Warth hill extends its base to the sea brink. The coast is every where exceeding bold, and the wild and varied magnificence of the rocks are peculiarly striking to the eye of a stranger. Beyond, for about a mile, the coast subsides into a beautiful sandy beach winding around the bay, till it reaches the mansion-house of Freswick. Here the coast again resumes its boldness, which continues with little variation, till it reaches the confines of the parish. The lands adjacent to the shore, for the last 3 miles, (a little moor south of Freswick excepted,) are all under cultivation. The coast is beautiful; the soil luxuriant and productive.

The north coast has but little of that stupendous boldness, for which the eastern one is so remarkable. In coming down from the Head, and travelling westward for two miles, the walk is extremely pleasant. The greatest luxuriance of growth prevails, extending from the shore about a mile inland. The beach itself consists wholly of shells and shell sand, of the purest white, which contribute alike to beautify the coast, and to enrich the soil. In the middle of this delightful walk, you approach the celebrated residence of JOHN O'GROAT; but, although

although his name be still illustrious, the spot is scarcely distinguishable where he dwelt. Westward from the burn of Dungisbay to Huna, moss prevails to the sea brink. From Huna to Gills, is one of the most fertile districts in the parish. The church is situated in the middle of it, on a green rising ground, close by the shore, the manse about a quarter of a mile inland from the church. Beyond Gills, there is, along the west, a large tract of waste ground, though very capable of cultivation. *Mey*, part of the property of the Earl of Caithness, terminates the parish on the west. This is an exceeding populous and fertile district; there are above 400 families on this part of his Lordship's estate. What he farms himself might rent for about 100 l. a-year.

Maritime State.—There are no ships belonging to the parish, nor harbours in it to receive them. The bays upon the coast are those of Gills, Dungisbay, and Freswick, in all of which, if the weather be tolerably moderate, vessels can lie in safety, and take in their cargoes; but, none of them are to be regarded as eligible stations in rough weather. Gills Bay is preferable to the rest.

Kelp and Minerals.—The shores of Canisbay are exceeding valuable, yielding about 100 tons of kelp in a favourable season, which is near as much as is made in all the rest of Caithness. They afford freestone for building, and ware for the land in the greatest abundance. The shell shore of Dungisbay, yields lime of the first estimation for purity and whiteness, and, in some parts of the world, would turn to considerable account to the owner. The adjacent lands are altogether impregnated with the sand of these shells, which gives a peculiar activity and cleanliness to the soil. The superior
luxuriancy

luxuriancy of the grass in this district, seems wholly owing to the quickening influence of this calcareous manure in its neighbourhood. Near Barrogil Castle, is found a species of coal which emits a hot vivid flame in burning, but without much dissolution of parts, or diminution of size, after it becomes extinct. It is got near the surface of the earth; and, in all probability, coal of a better quality may be found under it; but, the superabundance of peat fuel, in the mosses of Canisbay, in a great measure supercedes the necessity of digging for it.

Boats and Fishing.—There are about 60 boats around the coast, and yet not one man who lives entirely by fishing in the whole parish. Each of these boats is the joint property of, perhaps, 6 or 7 different owners. The fish are divided according to the value of their respective shares in the boat; and, the object of fishing is not sale, but the support of their families. The business of agriculture, from the benignity of the soil, and the number of hands employed, being soon and easily dispatched, they have abundance of leisure every good day to go a fishing. Hence, every farmer in the parish, (the inland estate of Brabster excepted,) is a fisherman, and every fisherman a farmer. There is, perhaps, scarce an instance known, of one parishioner ever selling a fish to another. Fish-mongers have of late engaged some boats, on the coast, to fish cod and ling at a stipulated value; but as this branch of industry is yet but in its infancy, it merits no particular description on the present occasion. On the north coast, the rapidity of the tides in the Pentland Frith is altogether unfavourable to fishing. In very stormy weather, cod and ling are, by the force of the billows, frequently thrown in alive upon the shore, and taken up by the people, who on these occasions go in quest of them. On the east coast, the same difficulties not occurring, fishing might unquestionably turn to good account, if proper exertions were

made, and boats accustomed to make a greater stretch from land, before they dropt their lines. Gray fish, as they are called, of all kinds, abound every where around the coast, and constitute a great part of the sustenance of the inhabitants. The shoals of young fish that pour into every creek and bay, about the beginning of September, are such, that a boll of them may be caught at a few hawls, in the course of one evening. They seem to be the intermingled fry of various genera, and are called by the inhabitants *Sellacs*. They are tender and delicious in the highest degree, and, in general, between 3 and 4 inches long. While the rapidity of the tides on the north coast is much against the fishing of cod and ling, there is perhaps no station in the world, where a lobster fishing might be more successfully carried on. The bays of Mey, Gills, and Dungisbay, abound in lobsters to a great degree.—A few boats at Mey, for the behoof of Messrs. Selby and Co. of London, have been employed for the first time, in this branch of industry, this season; and, from the success they have had, it is to be hoped, this species of fishing will soon become general around the coast.

Church, Schools, and Poor, &c.—The session records reach as far back as the restoration, but are not continued down without many gaps and mutilations. The whole inhabitants of the parish profess the religion of the established church, except a few of the Anabaptist persuasion. The first rise of that sect in Caithness, was in a part of the parish of Wick, where a gentleman of landed property resided, whose views of religion inclined him to profess and propagate the Anabaptist system: From that district, bordering on Canisbay, it was imported into this parish: It is now greatly on the decline, and never was accompanied with any sort of outrage, wildness, or violence in its professors. The stipend of Canisbay,

bay is at present 6 chalders of victual, one half meal, and the other half bear, with 200 merks of money, and the small tithes of the parish, accounted, though not equal to, 200 merks more.—Besides the parochial school, there are two society-schools in the parish, with a salary of 10 l. each. The parochial school may be worth about 18 l. Sterling. The church has very lately received a good repair, and the minister has been extremely well accommodated with new office houses. The manse, unless attended to, will not be of long duration. The glebe is a very small one, and there is little or no grafs annexed to it.—The poor, from the session funds, and various collections, receive, at annual distributions, about the sum of 10 l. or 12 l. Sterling. The indigent are indeed numerous, yet there are few or no strolling beggars in the parish*.

Dress, Customs, &c.—In Canisbay there are no manufactures. Their common apparel is of home growth and texture, generally dyed black. Their dress cloaths are all imported, and in general of better quality, than their circumstances can well afford. Both sexes are alike ambitious to appear fine. Few country congregations are more crowded,

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* The present minister has been 11 years in office, and has not been asked for above half a dozen certificates, in behalf of indigent persons, necessitated to throw themselves upon the alms of the public. The parish, at the same time, comparatively speaking, is far from being a rich one. The sea is its great support, without which, at the rate the lands are rented, it would be impossible for the inhabitants to live. The sea not only supplies them with fish, but with bread also, from the great abundance of tang-manure, which even, in bad seasons, seldom fails to ensure a crop. It also affords them employment, with suitable wages during summer, in the manufacture of kelp. A good deal is gained by pilotage, and not a little by sea expresses. From these combined causes, and their being inured from their earliest years to habits of sobriety and temperance, they may be said to live in a state equally removed from want and from abundance.

or brilliant in the summer season. Meetings for dancing are very common in winter. It is then, too, that they generally marry. Their weddings are often crowded; but the entertainment is always gratuitous. There are annual emigrations from the parish, both of males and females in the menial line, who leave the place of their nativity, in quest of superior wages in the south of Scotland. Many of the young men become soldiers, preferring the land to the sea service. Their character in that capacity has always been to their credit. There are few superstitious usages among them*: ghosts and fairies are believed to manifest themselves occasionally. There are three popish chapels mouldering into desolation in the parish, one at Freswick, another at Brabster, and a third at St. John's Head. Some superstitious rites, now in total disuse, were wont to be performed, by the ignorant vulgar, on particular days, at these sanctified ruins. At present, not a vestige of popery seems to intermingle in the creed of the people. There are no wells of preternatural efficacy in the parish. There is no day in the year accounted inauspicious, or, (Sundays excepted) held in higher estimation than another.

Character.—In point of stature, there are few of the inhabitants either much above or below the middle size. Being seldom

* No gentleman, however, of the name of SINCLAIR, either in Canisbay or throughout Caithness, will put on *green apparel*, or think of crossing the Ord upon a *Monday*. They were dressed in green, and they crossed the Ord upon a Monday, in their way to the battle of Flowden, where they fought and fell in the service of their country, almost without leaving a representative of the name behind them. The day and the dress are accordingly regarded as inauspicious. If the Ord must be got beyond on Monday, the journey is performed by sea. A superstition thus derived from the heroism of their ancestors, and so well calculated to excite a similar spirit in their offspring, philosophy itself will allow to be preserved from oblivion.

feldom employed in any sort of labour, whose progress from its difficulty is necessarily slow, and equal, if not superior, to every task incumbent on them to accomplish, they often manifest the greatest activity, alertness and dispatch. Hence, while occupied in walking, or speaking, their motion and their utterance is rather quick than slow. This may be partly owing to their living so much at sea, where the greatest possible dispatch is so often necessary. The climate, with a train of local circumstances, serves to give a particular activity to the blood and spirits of the inhabitants of the north. Notwithstanding this alertness and promptitude in all their operations, unless impelled to action from necessity, or the excitement of some particular interest they have in view, there are no people in the world fonder of doing nothing. During their hours of idleness, which are many, languor and lassitude are never observable about them. The mind, having no interests of its own to fasten upon, exerts its power, for the sake of employment, in making investigations into the condition and character of others. Hence that solicitude after news, that spirit for prying into the most hidden concerns of their neighbours, with the view of gratifying curiosity rather than malevolence; and hence also, a more enlarged knowledge of their country, and a more extensive acquaintance and correspondence with one another, than obtains among the peasantry of any other part of Great Britain. In the presence of their superiors, their self-possession, recollection and faculty of utterance never deserts them. Their discernment of the purposes of others, and dexterity in concealing their own, are no less remarkable. What a pity such respectable endowments, should be left to waste themselves on objects, neither of public utility nor of private emolument. Were they properly called forth, and engaged in branches of commendable industry,

try, the gain would be great indeed, both to themselves and to their country.

Antiquities and Natural Curiosities.—Houses, said to have belonged to the Picts, though in no respect remarkable, except for their antiquity, are to be seen in different parts of the parish. The prospect from Dungisbay Head, may be well reckoned a curiosity of the first distinction of its kind. It commands the whole of the Pentland Frith, and as far beyond it as the eye can stretch. The Orkney Isles appear spread out in that happy point of vision, in which such objects are contemplated with the greatest pleasure and delight. The German Ocean to a great extent, the Murray Frith, and the hills of Banff, Aberdeen, and Murrayshire, are all under view. No traveller, when he comes to John O'Groat's, will repent a visit to the Head. The *Stalks* of Dungisbay, as they are called, are two pyramidal pillars of naked freestone-rock. They rear their fantastic summits a great way into the air, and strike the eye of a stranger in approaching them, as the huge spires of some old magnificent Gothic pile. They are frequented in summer by innumerable sea fowls, who hatch and bring forth their young about their sides, while the eagle sits in royalty upon their summits. Near to St. John's Head, upon the north coast, is one of the pleasantest spots in the whole parish. It affords evident tokens, of having been, in former ages, a residence of great respectability; from a burying ground, and the vestiges of an old chapel in the neighbourhood, now in total ruins, as well as from the name it bears, it would seem to have been consecrated to religious purposes. From the vestiges of a ditch and draw-bridge, defending it on the land side, it must have been occupied as a place of strength and security; but, whether it has been the residence of saints or heroes, it affords ample proof, that neither taste nor judgment were

were wanting, in the choice of it as an habitation. The decorations of art are alone wanting to render it one of the loveliest spots in Caithness. In the burn of Stempster, is found white spar of the purest quality. When put into the fire, a very slight degree of heat makes it throw out a considerable portion of phosphoric light, which gradually decays as the stone cools, and is again recruited as the stone is heated a-new. When reduced to a powder, it puts on an exceeding brilliant and beautiful appearance during ignition. In electrical experiments, it is a non-conductor, nor does it seem soluble in acids. About a quarter of a mile east from the church, there are 2 springs of fresh water, at least 30 yards within flood mark. Betwixt Brabster and Freswick there is a deep hollow, called, in the dialect of the parish, the *Wolf's geo*, which must have derived its name from being the haunt of wolves in former times. There are other circumstances handed down by tradition, which tend to prove, that this ravenous animal was once an inhabitant of Canisbay.

Wild Animals.—The quadrupeds are foxes, hares, otters and weasels.—Adders are sometimes found in the mosses, but they are not numerous. In the links of Freswick, Dungisbay and Huna, there are plenty of rabbits, but they turn to little account. There are also moor-fowl, plovers, snipes, some partridges, and multitudes of wild pigeons in the rocks. Birds of passage are, the green plover, wild goose, snow-fowl, wagtail, swallow and rail. The snow-fowl, in the winter, are inconceivably numerous. The hills are exceedingly well stocked with the moor game above mentioned. The coasts, throughout the year, abound in multitudes of sea-fowl. In the summer months, the swarms of scarfs, marrots, faiks, &c. that come to hatch in the rocks of Dungisbay and Stroma, are prodigious. They in a manner darken the air, when, on
any

any sudden alarm, they take wing in a body from their nests. The gun makes frequent and bloody havock among them. They are shot for amusement from boats, and the common people appropriate their flesh and feathers to their own use. The sport is cruel and unprofitable, as numbers die upon their young in the nest, or expire before they reach the edge of the projecting shelve.

Planting—There is no planting in the parish. A good many years ago, an experiment was made on a part of the Warth Hill. A few acres were planted with firs.—They throve very well while young; but the fence being insufficient, and soon mouldering away, and the plantation exposed to all possible injury, the whole perished, and at present no vestige of it is to be seen. The spot was well chosen, and had the plantation been attended to, there is hardly a doubt, but that it would have prospered. No charge ought to be brought against the soil and climate, as long as the exertions of industry are wanting to overcome the obstacles complained of. Without a suitable choice of ground, both as to soil and shelter, and without proper inclosures, what success can or ought to be expected? The burns of Freswick, of Dungisbay, and the winding braes of Gills, where, in defiance of the depredations, both of man and beast, some natural brugh-wood maintains its residence, seem to claim a preference in experiments of this sort.

Roads, Inns, Traffic, &c.—The public roads in the parish are those leading from Huna to Wick and Thurso, both lying along the coast, the one in a southerly, and the other in a westerly direction. They have never been completed, and are very uncomfortable in the winter. A third from Huna, leading into the middle of the country by Brabster, would be a great

conveniency to other parishes, as well as to Canisbay. Tippling houses are by far too numerous in the parish: They have undoubtedly a bad influence on the industry, as well as morals of the people. Three, besides the ferry houses, are all that ought to be allowed. From Huna, the ferry boat crosses with the mails for Orkney once a week. From Burwick in South Ronaldshay, the Orkney mails in like manner cross to Huna. The distance there, being the shortest betwixt Caithness and Orkney, is reckoned 4 leagues in extent. If a passenger goes along with the mails, the freight is 1 s.; but if he hires the ferry boat for himself, it is 7 s. Although the Pentland Frith may be deservedly accounted the most tempestuous piece of sea, around the island of Britain, it is remarkable how few accidents happen in crossing it; but the danger it threatens, suggests the means of preventing it. The time of tide is observed to a minute, in putting out to sea. The boats are strong and of good construction; the boatmen perfect masters of their business, and acquainted from their infancy with every circumstance, respecting the variation of the tides they have to go through. In the summer season, there is almost a continued communication betwixt Caithness and Orkney, in the traffic of horses. Colts from the highlands of Caithness, from Sutherland and Strathnaver are sold to Orkney; and these very colts, when past their prime, are again brought from Orkney, and re-imported into Caithness. By far the greatest number of these cross to and from the shores of Canisbay, on account of the shortness of the passage. Large boats are made for transporting them; and the freight of each colt is 1 s., and a full grown horse 1 s. 8 d. to the nearest land. There are 2 petty markets in the parish, in the course of a year, one in December, and the other in February. ●

Language &c.—The Scotch, with an intermixture of some Norwegian vocables *, is the only language spoken in the parish. The pronunciation, as well as language of the peasantry, is better than what prevails among the vulgar in more southern counties.

* The names of places seem to be derived from the Norwegian language. *Ster*, which signifies an *estate*, is the terminating syllable of an immense number of the names of places in, Caithness and elsewhere. They consist for the most part of two syllables, the first most probably being the name of some distinguished possessor. Many maritime places, both in Caithness and Orkney, derive their names from some peculiarity respecting the coast or the tides. *Aae*, in the Danish tongue, signifies a current of water, or the particular course of a tide. It seems to claim an affinity with the Gaelic *amhne* and the Latin *amnis*, both signifying a river.—Where *wick* is the terminating syllable, the place is not only maritime, but there is always, in its vicinity, an opening of the coast, larger than a creek, but smaller than a bay, whose two containing sides form an angle, similar to that of the lips, terminating in the cheek. It is remarkable, that, in the Scotch dialect, this is always termed the *wick* of the mouth. It does not therefore appear, that there is the least affinity betwixt *wick* and *vicus*. The former vocable is for the most part, if not always, maritime: the latter, from the meaning of the word, can have no possible respect to local situation. If *wick* were derived from *vicus*, we would find *wicks* as generally inland as upon the coast; and every place bearing the name of *wick* ought either to be, or to afford some evidence, that in former ages it had been a village. In Orkney, there are a great number of wicks, and in Caithness two. They are all upon the coast, and every one of them characterised by an opening in the rocks, of the particular figure above described.

From the above observations, the names of most places in Canisbay are of easy derivation. *Huna* is made up of the words *bula* and *aae*. The former is the same as *bollow* in English, and *bow* in Scotch: The latter is the tide stream, or current, opposite to the coast. In confirmation of this etymology, *Huna* is one of the lowest lying places in the parish, and where the tides are less rapid than on other parts of the coast. *Stroma* is compounded of *Strom* and *aae*; the former in the Danish tongue signifying impetuous, and the latter, a current, as already observed. The tides around *Stroma*, are supposed to run at the rate of near 10 knots an hour. *Freswick* is the *green wick*, from *frisb*, signifying green, and the figure in the coast strikingly defined in its vicinity, which is found in every place,

towns. The better sort, and especially the fair sex, speak as well, and with as little peculiarity of accent, as their equals in any part of Scotland. There is scarcely a place in the whole parish, whose name is not of Norwegian derivation. The Gaelic is totally unknown in Canisbay; nor is there a place throughout the parish, whose name indicates the least affinity to that language.

Manston House.—The house of *Freswick* is a modern building, sufficiently commodious and elegant. About 25 years ago, in the month of February, the thunder broke on one of its wings, threw down a chimney top, and rent the wall from top to bottom, besides damaging the greatest part of the

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windows.

place, where wick obtains. Perhaps it is from *frisb* that the English word *fresh* is derived, which sometimes bears a meaning little different from *green*.

Dungisbay Head is called, by Ptolemy, *Bapocapsa*, a word evidently formed from the name it bore, in the days of this geographer. The Greeks had no word, in their own language, having *u* for the terminating letter; but in writing of persons or places, among barbarians, they frequently end the vocable with *u*; perhaps that it might appear as a barbarism, compared with the musical sounds of their own harmonious tongue. The word *Bery* would seem to have been a common appellation to such places as Dungisbay Head in those times. At this day, a similar promontory, in the island of Walls in Orkney, is termed the *Bery*. The word is clearly of Norwegian derivation. It signifies a place of observation; or a principal station, for discovering the approach of an enemy by sea, when at a great distance. The evident remains of a watch tower, on Dungisbay Head, are a proof of what is here asserted. *Beretter*, in the Danish tongue, to this day signifies to communicate intelligence, to warn or give notice. The name of Warth or Varth Hill is of similar derivation. *Varter*, in the above language is to attend, to wait on, or to watch for. Hence the speculum on the Head, being the principal station, was to discover and communicate to that on the Varth Hill; whereas the office of the latter was, to stand in waiting for such information, from the former, to receive and transmit the discoveries communicated from the *Bery*. *My* would appear to have its name, from the early and luxuriant verdure on what is called the Bank Head, in the spring months. *Brabster* is the estate or possession of *Brab*.

windows.—*Barrogil Castle* is an old aristocratic pile ; but, renewing its age apace, under the additions and embellishments it is daily receiving from its noble owner. The mansion house of Brabster is old, and situated in the most inland part of the parish. The ruins of three ancient towers or castles are still to be seen ; one in Mey, another south of the present mansion house of Frefwick *, and a third situated on the west side of the island of Stroma : They are all built upon rocks rising out of the sea, have been occupied as places of defence, and, in all probability, inhabited by heroes.

Island of Stroma.—The island of Stroma is situated in the Pentland Frith, about a league from the shore of Canisbay. It is a mile long, and half a mile in breadth. It contains 30 families, 97 females and 73 males, and rents at about 120 l. Sterling *per annum*. It is very productive in corn ; but the inhabitants are obliged to supply themselves with fuel, from the mosses on the main land. The tenth sheaf was heretofore taken in part payment of the rent. This, with all other customs and services, has of late been converted, by the present proprietor, at the desire of the people, into money. There are few discriminating features in the character of the Stromareans from the other inhabitants of the parish. They speak the same language, wear the same apparel, and observe the same customs. The sea is one of their principal sources of support. They are dabbling in salt water from their childhood upwards. From their political situation, and the simplicity, sobriety and industry, natural to them, there are perhaps few islanders on earth happier than those of Stroma. They have a society school in the island, and they come very regularly by sea to church, when the weather allows them to cross the sound. On the west of the island, there is a vast cavern

* For a view of the old Castle of Frefwick, see Pennant's Tour.

cavern, (or *Glups* as it is called,) at about 30 yards from the beach. It stretches down to a level with the sea, whose waves are seen pouring into it, by a narrow opening at the bottom. The sea is often exceedingly tempestuous, around the island in the winter months. The coast on the west is exceedingly bold. The tremendous elevation of the billows, that beat against it during a storm, from that quarter, exceeds all power of description. Although the rocks are only inferior to those of Dungisbay Head, the spray is tossed above their loftiest summits, and falls in such profusion as to run in rills to the opposite shore. A reservoir, in a commodious situation, is made to receive it, together with the rain which the clouds impart; and hence, a mill is kept going in the winter months, for grinding the grain of the island. The agitation of the spray is often so great, that the water in the spring wells becomes brackish, and a salt taste prevails in the air. The tide is supposed to rise to the height of 6 fathoms from lowest ebb. During a storm from the west, the rise of the sea, on that side, is more than 2 fathoms higher, than on the east of the island. From the antiseptic influence of the salt particles, perpetually floating in the air, mummies were preserved for a great length of years, and were wont to be exhibited as curiosities, in a chapel situated in the island. The mummies are now destroyed, and the chapel is unroofed and mouldering into ruin.

Pentland Frith.—The Pentland Frith is reckoned 24 miles in length, and varies from 4 to 5 leagues in breadth. It has the Orkney Isles on the N. and the coasts of Caithness on the S., and forms a communication between the German and the Atlantic Oceans. In the mouth of the frith, and nearly half way between Dungisbay Head and the Orkneys, are situated the Pentland *Skerries*. These are two small uninhabited islands, the one considerably larger than the other, and stretch-
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ing a little eastward of Dungisbay Head, the island of Stromø lying about two leagues to the west. The parts of the frith, most dangerous to navigation, are two currents, stretching from Dungisbay Head and St. John's Head, to a considerable distance from land. The former is called the *Boars of Dungisbay*, and the latter the *Main of Mey*. The billows in them are often swollen to a monstrous size, even in the finest summer day. They seem to arise from the collision of tides in opposite directions, and recoiling with increased impetuosity from the head lands above mentioned.—Without the aid of skilful pilotage, they are hazardous even in the calmest weather. The tides in every part of the frith are various and irregular, and of course the navigation dangerous, especially in the night, where a very small deviation from the proper course may be attended with fatal consequences.

A Light-House Proposed.—For the above reasons, and many more that might be advanced, there is not, around the island of Britain, a station where a light-house is more requisite, than in the mouth of the Pentland Frith. A year does not pass, without some fatal accidents to shipping, from the want of it. Either Dungisbay Head, or the largest of the Pentland Skerries, is the station where a light-house ought to be erected. A light on the Head would serve to illuminate the Pentland Frith to the west, and the German Ocean to the east, as far as the eye could discern it. No doubt its altitude in foggy weather is an argument, against it, as a station for a light house; but, from the prevalence of winds in this quarter of the world, fogs would very rarely obstruct the light. The Skerry also, would unquestionably be, in many respects, an excellent station. It is east of the Head, and of every part of the coast. From its local situation, it would probably yield, as sure a guidance to shipping, as could be
expected

expected from a light-house on the Head. It promises, indeed, many advantages as a station for a light-house ; and the principal objections which can be argued against it, are, the great difficulty there would be, to find a person willing to accept of so tempestuous a residence in the winter months ; and the expence, which would be at least 6 times greater than at the Head. These points being considered, perhaps, it is upon the Head where the experiment ought first to be tried. A light-house on either of these stations, would be an infallible safeguard to vessels from mistaking the bays of Reifs and of Frefwick in the night, for the Pentland Frith. This has been often done, and the most fatal consequences have ensued. All mariners declare, that they would have no more hesitation in sailing through the Pentland Frith, at the dead of night, than at mid-day, had they the guidance of a light-house to direct their course. The number of vessels, that pass and repass in the Pentland Frith, during the course of a year, may be reckoned about 2000, or even upwards.

Account of JOHN O'GROAT'S HOUSE.—We shall conclude this paper, with an account of the most memorable place in the parish, which has often been visited, by travellers from very distant countries, who, it is believed, have rarely been made acquainted with the peculiar circumstance, which first gave rise to its celebrity ; its fame having been in general erroneously attributed, to its mere local situation, at the northern extremity of the island ; whereas, it originated in an event not unpleasing to relate, and which furnishes a useful lesson of morality.

In the reign of James IV. of Scotland, *Malcolm, Gavin* and *John de Groat*, (supposed to have been brothers, and originally from Holland,) arrived in Caithness, from the south of Scotland, bringing with them, a letter written in Latin, by that prince, recommending them to the countenance

countenance and protection of his loving subjects, in the county of Caithness. They purchased, or got possession of, the lands of Warfe and Dungilbay, lying in the parish of Canisbay, on the side of the Pentland Frith ; and each of them obtained an equal share of the property they acquired. In process of time, their families increased, and there came to be eight different proprietors of the name of Groat, who possessed these lands amongst them ; but, whether the three original settlers split their property among their children, or whether they purchased for them, small possessions from one another, does not appear.

These eight families, having lived peaceably and comfortably in their small possessions, for a number of years, established an annual meeting, to celebrate the anniversary of the arrival of their ancestors on that coast. In the course of their festivity, on one of these occasions, a question arose, respecting the right of taking the door, and sitting at the head of the table, and such like points of precedency, (each contending for the seniority and chieftainship of the clan,) which increased to such a height, as would probably have proved fatal in its consequences to some, if not to all of them, had not John de Groat, who was proprietor of the ferry, interposed. He having acquired more knowledge of mankind, by his constant intercourse with strangers passing the Pentland Frith, saw the danger of such disputes ; and having had address enough to procure silence, he began with expatiating on the comfort and happiness they had hitherto enjoyed, since their arrival in that remote corner, owing to the harmony which had subsisted among them. He assured them, that, as soon as they appeared to split and quarrel among themselves, their neighbours, who till then had treated them with respect, would fall upon them, take their property from them, and expel them from the county. He therefore conjured them, by the ties of
blood,

blood, and their mutual safety, to return quietly, that night, to their several homes; and he pledged himself, that he would satisfy them all with respect to precedency, and prevent the possibility of such disputes among them, at their future anniversary meetings. They all acquiesced, and departed in peace. In due time, John de Groat, to fulfil his engagement, built a room, distinct by itself, of an octagon shape, with 8 doors and windows in it; and having placed in the middle, a table of oak, of the same shape, when the next anniversary meeting took place, he desired each of them to enter at his own door, and to sit at the head of the table; he taking himself the seat that was left unoccupied. By this ingenious contrivance, any dispute, in regard to rank, was prevented, as they all found themselves on a footing of equality, and their former harmony and good humour were restored. That building was then named John O'Groat's house, and though the house is totally gone, the place where it stood still retains the name, and deserves to be remembered, as long as good intentions, and good sense, are estimable in a country*.

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* The particulars above mentioned, were communicated to John Sutherland, Esq. of Wester, above 50 years ago, by his father, who was then advanced in life, and who had seen the letter wrote by James IV. in the possession of George Groat of Warfe. The remains of the oak table have been seen by many now living, who have inscribed their names on it.

NUMBER X.

PARISH OF NEWBURGH.

(County and Synod of Fife.—Presbytery of Cupar.)

By the Rev. Mr. THOMAS STUART.

Name, Situation, Extent and Soil.

THE town of Newburgh has evidently given its name to this parish; and the significant term, by which it is denominated, may have been imposed in reference to some more ancient burgh in the neighbourhood. It forms the boundary of the county of Fife, on the N. W.—The extent of the parish is inconsiderable, and its figure very irregular, one part of it being detached from the other*. The soil on the N. and E. of the town of Newburgh, where the ground is low and flat, consists of rich clay, not inferior in quality to any in the Carse of Gowrie; on the west of the town, and near to the river, where the ground rises higher, it is light and gravelly; more southerly, where the ground suddenly dips, it tends to moss; and still farther south, where the ground again rises into the Ochil Hills, it becomes, in some places, dry and loamy, in others wet and tilly. In the estate of Pitcairly, however,

* See Ainslie's map of the counties of Fife and Kincross.

however, owing to the fortunate slopings of the eminences, and the largeness of the interjacent flats, there are many fields well adapted to the purposes of agriculture, which have, accordingly, been brought by the proprietor, into a state of fertility and cultivation.

Climate, Diseases, &c.—In the hilly parts of the parish, the climate, although cold, is reckoned more healthy, than in the lower grounds, on the bank of the river, where the town of Newburgh stands. *There* the flat is hemmed in on the south, by the Ochil Hills, which obstruct the sun's influence, while it lies open, on the opposite side, to the N. E. winds, that blow up the Frith of Tay with piercing keenness. Notwithstanding this, epidemical distempers are not more frequent, or more fatal in Newburgh, than in other parts of the neighbouring country. Rheumatisms and consumptions may be stated, as the diseases, to which its inhabitants are most liable. The practice of inoculating for the small pox, not having become general, many children are, from time to time, lost by that disease. In the course of spring and summer 1791, no fewer than 56 children died of it, in the town of Newburgh. But it may be expected, that the same distemper will not in future, find so many victims, as the good sense, and well directed affection of parents begin to overturn any prejudices, they might formerly have entertained on that subject, and to engage them in taking that easy step, for saving the lives of their offspring, which experience justifies, and which Providence, from the success attending it, seems to sanction and approve.

Rivers.—No river runs through this parish. The Tay, which washes its northern extremity, more properly forming a boundary to it, than making any part of it. But the

Tay may find a place in the statistical account of any district, that reaches to its border. This noble river, having received the accession of the water of the Earn, begins at Newburgh, to assume the appearance of an arm of the sea ; and, by the inhabitants of that town and neighbourhood, is denominated the *Broad Water*. When the tide in it, however, has ebbed, it leaves a considerable part of its channel dry ; and, collecting itself into two currents, passes along the opposite sides of its bed, in what are termed the *North* and *South Deeps*. The South Deep, contains by far the greatest quantity of water, and furnishes the course, which vessels of burden usually hold, in passing up and down the river. As far up as Newburgh, the Tay admits vessels of 500 tons burden ; but above the confluence of the Earn, beyond which Perth is situated, vessels of 200 tons burden, when deep laden, proceed with difficulty. Vessels, however, of about 90 or 100 tons burden, (in which the trade with Perth is usually carried on,) easily make the shore of Perth ; and when larger vessels are employed in that trade, part of their cargoes is distributed among lighters, on their arrival at the shore of Newburgh.

Salmon Fishing.—Besides being favourable to commerce, the Tay furnishes great quantities of excellent salmon, the fishing of which has, especially of late years, become a considerable source of wealth to all who have property in the river. The proprietor of that part of its channel, on the south side, which corresponds to the length of the parish of Newburgh, draws about 200 l. Sterling, of yearly rent, for his fishings ; and, in situations farther up, where the channel is not so broad, nor the tide so powerful, proprietors receive a much greater rent for a much less extent of water. What enables fishermen to pay such high rents, is, the great price
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which salmon bring in the London market. The company at Perth, which rents the bulk of salmon fishings in the Tay, seldom exposes fish to sale in Scotland, except at Perth; but continues to send them to London through the whole fishing season. When the weather is not uncommonly warm, or the fish more than ordinarily abundant, they are sent up fresh. For conveying them, the company employs no fewer than 4, and sometimes 5 smacks, of about 90 tons burden each, which are, in general, navigated by sailors belonging to Newburgh. These light, but strong built vessels, are kept running at all weathers, with almost any quantity of fish; and, as the voyage, in the fishing season, cannot be long, they generally bring their cargoes to market perfectly sound, especially since the practice has prevailed, of packing the salmon in ice.—One situated on the border of the Tay, is pleased with observing this new and gainful trade to the capital; and cannot help admiring the spirited industry of that merchant, by whom it was first rendered considerable. At the same time, he may be allowed to express his regret, that any advantages arising from a monopoly of salmon, should prevent the inhabitants of three counties, from sharing in those delicacies, which Providence annually scatters in such abundance upon their shores.

Hills and Woods.—The hills in the parish of Newburgh, present no remarkable appearance. Like the generality of hills, in that extensive ridge, which runs, with little interruption, from the neighbourhood of Stirling, to the N. E. extremity of Fife, they are broad-topped, green, and in many places, arable.—That abrupt rock near to Newburgh, on the S. E., which excites the surprise, and sometimes awakens the terror of strangers, in passing along the road immediately under it, belongs to the parish of Abdie. In regard to woods, it does not appear, that there have been any of great extent,
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in the parish of Newburgh, at least within the period to which its written records reach ; although it is not improbable, that the wood mentioned in the history of Sir WILLIAM WALLACE, by the name of *Iron-Side*, may have anciently covered its lower grounds. Above 20 years ago, the proprietor of Pitcairly, having inclosed the greatest part of his lands, in that quarter, with ditches and stone fences, run along many stripes, and interspersed several considerable clumps of different kinds of wood, which give a cheering appearance to his estate, as it unexpectedly opens on the view of the traveller, in crossing a district, otherwise uninclosed, and ill supplied with trees. Of late years, similar steps have been taken, in the lower grounds, on the estate of Mugdrum ; and at no great distance of time, the beauties of that place, naturally delightful, may be much heightened, by various well disposed, and thriving plantations.

Antiquities.—At the N. E. extremity of this parish, near the river Tay, on a gentle rise, in the middle of a rich, and not unextensive flat of clay lands, appear the ruins of the ancient *Abbey of Lindores*. Concerning the history of this Abbacy, while it continued under the power of the church, or after it was erected into a temporal lordship, nothing material can be discovered, which has not already been made public. About the year 1741, the abbey, with a small part of the abbey lands, which, till that time, had been retained by the family of Lindores, passed into the hands of the son of a former minister of Newburgh ; and, by a subsequent sale, have come into the possession of the family of Mugdrum. What may have been the extent of the buildings of the abbey, in former times, one cannot judge, as part of the grounds, which they once occupied, is now converted into arable land. Remains of the church, however, are still extant, which shew, that it
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must have been a large, if not an elegant building. Parts, also, of the garden walls are still standing, which suggest no mean idea of the wealth of the clergy who inhabited it, and strongly mark the pains they had taken, to secure the delicacies and luxuries of the table. Within these walls, and for a small space beyond them, on one side, the ground continues to be occupied by fruit trees, which, having been long since planted, exhibit appearances of decay, that, viewed in conjunction with the mouldering fragments of structures, half covered at top with ivy, and surrounded at bottom with thorn and hazel, give an air of melancholy grandeur to the place at large. That dwelling house, situated in the heart of the ruins, and occupied occasionally, till of late years, by the proprietors, or their friends, must have been repaired from some more ancient fabric, or an entire new building of stones taken out of the walls of the abbey. If we may credit tradition, it was reared by the first Lord Lindores, in the beginning of last century, and has received considerable additions and improvements since that period. Formerly strangers, who visited the ruins of the abbey, had a stone coffin pointed out to them, which was placed within the area of the church, on the north wall, towards the east end, which was said to have contained the remains of an Earl of Douglas; but, in consequence of depredations lately made upon the walls, it is now covered over with rubbish. Whether this coffin did in fact contain the bones of an Earl of Douglas, or of a Duke of Rothsay, or perhaps of some dignified ecclesiastic belonging to the abbey, no certain information can be procured, as there is not a single inscription to be found in any part of the church, or of the other buildings, which might lead to the discovery of facts of such remote antiquity. Upon the whole, in viewing the abbey of Lindores, nothing is now to be met with, worthy of attaching the curiosity of the visitor.

tor. If ever it presented any striking displays of the taste, and magnificence of our forefathers, they have been removed; and, should the practice of demolishing its ruins continue a few years longer, the eye of the most prying antiquary, will scarcely be able to discern the situation where it was placed.

Besides the ruins of the abbey of Lindores, this parish contains two crosses of very ancient erection. One of these is placed on a rising ground, a little westward of the town of Newburgh, and within 4 yards of the Tay. The other is situated at the distance of somewhat less than a mile to the S. in an opening of the Ochil Hills, on the confines of Strathearn, where the road, formerly leading towards Lindores, separates from that which at present leads to Auchtermuchty. The lower cross, known by the name of the Cross of Mugdrum, consists of one large stone placed upright in another, which has been hollowed for receiving it, and which serves to retain it in an erect position. Upon the upright stone, although mutilated, remains of the figures of horses may be traced; but no vestige of any inscription appears. The upper cross, called Cross M'Duff, consists, at present, of one large quadrilateral block of freestone, rudely indented in several places, but is said to have had formerly another stone standing upright; although the stone now lying along the ground, has no appearance of ever having been hollowed, in the manner of that which forms the base of the Cross of Mugdrum. No satisfactory account can be given of the various purposes, which these crosses were originally meant to serve. The tradition, which connects Cross M'Duff with the jurisdiction of the powerful Thane of Fife, may not be destitute of foundation; but in regard to the Cross of Mugdrum, even tradition ceases to furnish any information. It were needless to quote the lines of jargon, which are said to have
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been engraved on the Grofs M'Duff. They are to be found in every book, which treats of that ancient monument *.

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* Although tradition has retained few particulars, respecting the history of either of the crosses, it continues to preserve the memory of the spot, in the lands belonging to the town of Newburgh, on which more than one unfortunate victim fell a sacrifice to the superstition of former times, intent on punishing the crime of witchcraft. The humane provisions of the legislature, joined to the superior knowledge, which has, of late years, pervaded all ranks of men in society, bid fair to prevent the return of a phrensy, which actuated our forefathers universally, and with fatal violence. But we may well be surpris'd, in observing how near to our own times, it continued to exert its influence over the judgment, not of the common people only, but of those too, who, by their education, should have been raised above vulgar prejudices. As late as the year 1653, the records of this parish, contain articles of an additional charge, brought by the minister himself, against Katharine Key, while under process of scandal, before the kirk-session, for imprecating curses upon him, because he had debarred her access to the communion, which evidently shew, that he entertained suspicions of her being a witch. The articles, or points of accusation, as the records term them, are 5 in number; and as they serve to exhibit a striking picture of sentiments, once prevalent among the people of this country, no apology is requisite for taking the liberty of inserting them.

" Newburgh, September 18th, 1653. The which day, ye minister gave in, " against Kathrine Key, severall poynts yt had come to his hearing, which he " defyred might be put to tryell. 1. That being refused milk from Christian " Orme, or some other in David Orme's house, the kow gave nothing but red " blood; and being sent for, to sie the kow, she clapped (stroked) the kow, and " said, the kow will be weill, and thereafter the kow becam weill. 2. That " John Philp having ane kow new calved, the said Kathrine Key, came in and " took forth ane peice fyre, and yrafter the kow becam so sick, that none expect- " ed she should have lived. And the said Kathrine being sent for, to sie the kow, " she clapped the kow, and said the kow will be weill enough, and she amen- " dit. 3. That the minister and his wyfe, having ane purpose to take ane chyld " of theirs from the sd Kathrine, which she had in nursing, the chyld wold suck " none woman's breast, being only one quarter old; but being brought again to " the said Kathrine, presently sucked her breast. 4. That thereafter the chyld was " *spoyled* (weaned), she came to sie the child, and wold have the bairne (child) " in her arms, and yrafter, the bairne murned and gratt (weeped sore), in the " night

Town of Newburgh, its History, &c.—The town of Newburgh arose, in the times of popery ; and, at an early period, was erected into a burgh of regality, under the Abbot of Lindores. In the year 1600, James VI. erected the Abbacy of Lindores into a temporal Lordship ; and, in the year 1631, his son Charles I. granted a charter to the town of Newburgh, forming the community into a proper royal burgh, with the several immunities and privileges, usually conferred on the royal burghs of this kingdom. At present, Newburgh has no voice in the choice of a representative to parliament ; but, in all other respects, it retains the features of a royal burgh. Its revenue, indeed, is very inconsiderable, not exceeding 25 l. Sterling, per annum, out of which the minister receives, yearly, 20 l. Scotch, in payment of stipend. Notwithstanding which, its office bearers make a decent appearance ; a court is held in it weekly, with marks of dignity ; and it retains a clerk of ability for recording its public proceedings.—One, who has occasion to observe the importance of insuring full respect, to persons clothed with the office of magistrates, may be allowed to express a wish, that government would devise some method of increasing the revenues of the lesser burghs. A small sum of the public money applied in this way, could not fail of contributing to the preservation of order, in places, which,
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" night, and almost the day tyme ; also, that nothing could stay her, untill she
 " died. Nevertheless, befor her coming to sic her, and her embracing of her,
 " took as weill wt the spaining, and rested as weill as any bairne could doe.
 " 5. That she is of ane evill *brutte* (report) and fame, and so was her mother be-
 " fore her." When these points were put to trial by the kirk-session, the evi-
 dence of their truth did not, it should seem, come out with such clearness, as to
 enable the kirk-session to pass sentence against Katherine ; and they accordingly
 referred the matter to the presbytery of Cupar for decision. But in what man-
 ner the presbytery of Cupar treated it, no notice is taken in the records of the
 kirk-session.

owing to the general increase of wealth, and other obvious causes, are in some danger of requiring the authority of an established and respectable magistracy, to preserve them in tranquillity and good order.

The town of Newburgh, consists of one street of considerable length, with small suburbs at each end, and a lane leading towards the shore from its centre. The houses, on each side of the lane, and in the suburbs, have been built within these 30 years. The town itself, does not occupy more ground than it did in the end of last century; but, in consequence of alterations, that have since been made upon the buildings, it must be capable of containing double the number of inhabitants. Formerly, the generality of houses in Newburgh, were low built, and covered with thatch of straw, or of reeds. Of late years, a better style of architecture has prevailed; and, at this day, Newburgh has some pretensions to neatness, in the structure of its houses. Sixty years ago, few of its houses concealed their rafters.—At present, scarcely any of them, and none lately erected, present that naked appearance. On the same spot, where 12 years ago a board was placed in the window, to exclude the winter storm, may now be seen, a Venetian blind, attached to the casement, for blunting the rays of the summer sun. Within these 10 years, not fewer than 30 houses have been rebuilt, within the liberties of Newburgh; some of which might be rented at 12*l.* and none for less than 5*l.* per annum. Preparations are also making, for rebuilding two or three more. The street of Newburgh, which has long been paved with stones, having fallen into disrepair, the magistrates and town council, lately, formed the resolution of paving it a new; and by means of assessments from proprietors within the burgh, together with a small allowance out of the statute labour, leviable upon the inhabitants at large, they have made considerable progress in the ex-

execution of their design, Some appearances, which would induce one to be of opinion, that coal might be found in the grounds belonging to the town, having also attracted the notice of the magistrates and town council, they are at present taking the proper steps, for ascertaining the existence of that useful mineral in their territory ; and it is to be presumed, that the liberality of the neighbourhood will enable them to make the most satisfactory investigation. Various other measures have of late been pursued by them, and by individuals in the place, which shew, that the spirit of improvement, long dormant, has awoke, and become active in Newburgh, as well as in many other burghs in Scotland.

Manufactures and Commerce.—Till within these few years, a great proportion of the inhabitants of Newburgh, whatever other trades they might exercise, were a kind of husbandmen. But most of the small portions of land, which they formerly held, and which they generally cultivated with their own hands, having been purchased of late by the proprietor of Mugdrum, and laid out in large parcels, they are now attached more to particular callings. The trade which occupies the greatest number of hands, is that of weaving cloth. No fewer than 270 of the inhabitants, are at present employed in it. The weavers of Newburgh, however, do not yet abide constantly by the loom. Accustomed from their early years, to handle the oar, as well as the shuttle, they betake themselves, in considerable numbers, to a sea-faring life, when the price of these kinds of cloth, which they are in the practice of weaving, falls low in the market. While they continue at the loom, they do not, in general, arrange themselves under different masters, who might furnish them with materials, and pay them for their work. Some of them do indeed follow that method ; and work-shops may be met with, in which
near

near a dozen of looms are employed by one manufacturer. But the greater part of them weave their own yarn, and bring their own webs to sale. The webs, which they commonly weave, are of three kinds, termed by the workmen, *Silefias, Ofnaburghs, and Brown Linens*. For such cloths, there is, generally, a good, and at present, a very great demand in London and Leeds. The weavers, in Newburgh, however, have little direct intercourse with either of these places. They generally dispose of their webs, at Newburgh, to a few of their own number, who again dispose of them at Perth, Dundee, Cupar, Auchtermuchty, and Glasgow, to persons there, who purchase them, either with their own capital, or upon commission, for the English markets. Not more than two of them transact business immediately with London. Besides weavers, Newburgh contains its full proportion of shopkeepers, inn-keepers, smiths, masons, carpenters, shoemakers, tailors, butchers, bakers, fishermen, and seamen. Scarcely any of its inhabitants find themselves placed beyond the necessity of employing themselves in manual labour; although few or none of them are engaged in manufacturing any materials for exportation, except the linen cloths already mentioned, and barley into malt. Of the latter, they send to Edinburgh market, in the course of one season, about 1800 bolls. Till of late years, a great proportion of bread, beer, and butcher's meat, consumed in Newburgh, was brought from Perth, Dundee, and the Carle of Gowrie; but the bakers, brewers, and butchers, are exerting themselves in their respective occupations, and they bid fair for securing, in future, the custom of the generality of the inhabitants. Formerly, few people resorted from any distance to Newburgh, for merchant goods; and the retail trade in it was limited to a few articles, in the hard-ware and grocery lines, purchased commonly by the dealers at Perth, or at Dundee. But within these few years,

years, several shops have been opened, upon a more extensive scale ; and there is reason to believe, that the demands of the town and neighbourhood, will furnish the keepers of them with employment. Still, however, no trader has as yet appeared in Newburgh, whose extensive transactions in commerce, would entitle him to the name and character of a merchant ; though perhaps the time is not far distant, when many will be found here of that respectable description.

Shore.—A few yards northward from the town, and nearly connected with it by buildings, although beyond the limits of its jurisdiction, lies the shore of Newburgh ; which consists of three continuous piers, projecting into the south deep of the river Tay, with several dwelling houses, store-houses, and other conveniencies for commerce. These piers form very safe stations, for the vessels employed in the trade on the river ; and although none of any burden can properly be said to belong to Newburgh, and but few are freighted to it, except with coals or lime, they are seldom to be seen without ships, as the generality of vessels, bound for Perth, must wait at Newburgh the flow of the tide ; and not a few of them, must unload part of their cargoes there, before they can, even with the tide, proceed farther up the river. Hence arises a good deal, if not of trade, at least of stir, at the shore of Newburgh, which proves of advantage to the place at large. The smacks employed in the salmon trade, also, lie to there, at all seasons, and take in all kinds of goods for London market. A trade in wood and iron, is likewise carried on at the shore, by a dealer, who resides upon the spot, and who has obtained a pretty extensive sale. A tannage is likewise forming there, which will revive a trade, that was carried on at Newburgh, in the end of the last century. Formerly, great quantities of burnt lime-stone, brought by land carriage, from the inland
parts

parts of Fife, were shipped at the shore of Newburgh, and sold to the farmers in the Carse of Gowrie, for manure. But the lime works erected on the Frith of Forth, and on the English coast, from which the farmers, in the east end of Strathearn, and in the Carse of Gowrie, are more readily and more cheaply supplied, have nearly put an end to that species of traffic. For several years past, great quantities of wheat and barley, purchased from the farmers in the neighbourhood, have been shipped at the shore of Newburgh, chiefly for the Edinburgh and Glasgow markets. This trade seems likely to continue; and while it brings advantage to Newburgh, must operate to the benefit of the country at large. On the north side of Fife, more grain is cultivated, than can be consumed by the inhabitants. Formerly, a market was, with difficulty, found for the surplus; but, by the connexion establishing between Fife and the south country, this difficulty will be removed, and a new spur given to the farther cultivation of a district lately much improved, but capable of being rendered greatly more productive.

Farms.—There are only 4 farms in this parish, the remaining lands, which are not extensive, either continuing in the possession of the proprietors themselves, or being divided into inconsiderable portions among a variety of feuars, tenants, burghal heritors, and other small proprietors. Of these farms, however, it may be with truth, affirmed, that they are at present, in as good a state of cultivation, as any in the neighbourhood. Few farms, in the whole extent of the Ochil Hills, to the westward, have been more judiciously laid out, than two of them, which occupy the estate of Pitcairly; and no farm in the Carse of Gowrie can be kept in higher order, or rendered more productive, than the one which is connected with the Abbey of Lindores. The fourth farm, although
formed

formed but of late, chiefly out of small purchases from the burghal heritors of Newburgh, bears evident marks of improvement.

Rent, Proprietors, &c.—The valued rent of the parish amounts only to 19,81. 17s 6d. Scotch. Its real rent may not at present be great; but, on the expiration of some leases, it must rise considerably, as land, in the lower grounds, on the east of Newburgh, lets, at from 2 l. to 3 l. *per acre*; and, in the higher grounds, at from 10 s to 2 l. *per acre*. The territory of the parish is divided among two greater, and about 30 smaller proprietors, called here, as well as in other parts of the country, *portioners*. The two greater, and most of the smaller proprietors, usually reside in it. Besides the four farmers already mentioned, there are few tenants in the parish, who do not reside in the town, or at the shore of Newburgh; and their number, is not great, nor their portions of land extensive. The four greater farmers pay of rent above 50 l. *per annum* each; the other tenants pay much below that sum.

Crops.—The principal crops in this parish are oats, barley; wheat, beans, and a mixture of beans and pease. Notwithstanding the richness of the soil in the lower grounds, it is not long since wheat made a crop there in rotation. Of late years, wheat has been sown, not only in the lower grounds, but also in the hilly parts of the parish. As turnips are not found a profitable crop in clay lands, they are not cultivated in the lands attached to the Abbey of Lindores. Any trials made to raise them in the higher grounds, have succeeded. But it is matter of regret, that farmers, in this part of the country, shew some backwardness, in extending a species of crop, which, when properly conducted, not only meliorates the land, and gives it fresh life and vigour, but also furnishes a delicate and nourish-

ing food, either for feeding young cattle, and raising them to a greater size, or fattening the old, and bringing them to a better market. Clover and rye grass are generally sown with the barley; and, after a crop of grass has been taken for one year, the ground is again broke up for oats. Wheat is sown after fallow or after pulse, but commonly after fallow. Manure is laid on the fallow, or when the land is undergoing preparation for a pease crop. When the season will admit, beans, or a mixture of beans and pease, are sown upon the manure, and plowed in. Wheat is not sown so early as formerly, even upon fallow. Farmers are of opinion, that very early sowing seldom produces the largest head, or the heaviest grain of wheat. Oats are sown from the beginning of March to the end of April, and the seed, generally made use of, is a species of oats termed Grange-bothrey, from a farm of that name, in the county of Angus. Barley is sown in the end of April, and through the whole of May. Most of the seed employed is a mixture of different kinds, originally imported from England. Though the lands, being under better culture than formerly, yield greater quantities of barley, it is remarked, that its quality seems not to be equal. Whether this be owing to the frequent sowing of wheat, or to the introduction of lime, as a manure, experience has not yet enabled the farmer to determine. The quantity of grain, raised in this parish, is by no means equal to the maintenance of its inhabitants; but the deficiency is abundantly made up by the neighbourhood.

Population, &c.—From the report of one, who, during the indisposition of the writer, was employed to ascertain the number of the parishioners, it appears, that the parish, at large, contains 1664 souls, of whom 1552 belong to the town, suburbs, and shore of Newburgh, and 112 to the country part

of the parish. The inhabitants of the town, suburbs and shore, consist of 772 males, and 780 females. Of the inhabitants in the country, 64 are males, and 48 females. The return to Dr. Webster, in 1755, amounting only to 1347, it is evident, that there has been an increase, since that time, of 317 souls. Owing to the manner, in which the publication of marriage banns is generally registered in Scotland, an accurate account of the marriages, that take place in any particular parish, cannot always be obtained. But the records of this parish, supply the following account of births and deaths, for the last six years, which there is every reason to believe, may be depended on.

TABLE of BIRTHS, DEATHS, &c.

| Years. | Births. | | | Deaths. | | | Ages of persons who died. | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|---------|--------|----------|---------|--------|----------|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Born. | Males. | Females. | Died. | Males. | Females. | Under 2 years. | Between 2 & 5. | Between 5 & 10. | Between 10 & 20. | Between 20 & 30. | Between 30 & 40. | Between 40 & 50. | Between 50 & 60. | Between 60 & 70. | Between 70 & 80. | Between 80 & 90. |
| 1786 | 46 | 24 | 22 | 32 | 10 | 22 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 1 |
| 1787 | 58 | 34 | 24 | 25 | 13 | 12 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 0 |
| 1788 | 66 | 34 | 32 | 30 | 13 | 17 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 0 |
| 1789 | 61 | 36 | 25 | 27 | 16 | 11 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 1790 | 66 | 35 | 31 | 31 | 18 | 13 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| 1791 | 69 | 33 | 36 | 28 | 12 | 16 | 23 | 35 | 13 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 0 |

Ecclesiastical State.—There are three clergymen in the parish of Newburgh; the minister of the established church, of the Burgher Seceders, and of the Congregational Society, besides several others, who, without taking the name of clergymen, teach and exhort, under the denomination of Anabaptists, and Unitarians. The Congregational Society is small. The Burgher Seceders may exceed one third of the whole inhabitants of the parish. In point of numbers, the Anabaptists and Unitarians scarcely deserve the name of societies. The Unitarians do not exceed four; and the Anabaptists are not double that number. The Anabaptists are connected with a church of the same description, at Dundee. It may be presumed, that the Unitarians have established more distant connexions. There are also, in the parish, several families who belong to the congregation of Antiburgher Seceders at Abernethy. The Antiburgher Secession, is of long standing in the parish. But the Burgher Secession sprung up in it, on the admission of the present incumbent, into the Established Church. The town of Newburgh, also, contains a few Independents, and one or two professors of the Episcopal religion, but no Roman Catholics. Besides these various denominations of Christians, not a few persons reside within the bounds of this parish, who held communion with no religious society; and seldom join in any public acts of religious worship. A friend to principles of toleration, and an advocate for liberty of conscience, rejoices in observing men of different views and opinions, on subjects of religion, living together in the exercise of mutual charity, and transacting peaceably with one another, the business of civil life.—These are happy times. Even among the common people, persecution for the sake of conscience begins to be regarded with horror; and the bigot should in vain attempt to inflame them with violence, against persons of sentiments, the most opposite to those which they

have embraced. At the same time, conviction of the importance of religion, to the present comfort, and future happiness of mankind, must produce the deepest regret in the minds of those, who are called to witness liberty of conscience made a pretence for neglecting duties, which the best, in all ages, have ever held sacred.

Lord Viscount Stormont, and Mr. Hay of Mugdrum, are vice-patrons of the parish. The stipend consists of 31 bolls, 2 pecks of oats; 65 bolls 2 firlots of bear; 37 bolls 2 pecks of meal, (2 bolls 2 pecks of the oats, and the same quantity of the bear being converted to the town, at 20 l. Scotch,) and 22 l. Scotch in money, with a manse, and a glebe of 4 acres. The parish church is an old Popish chapel, situated within the town of Newburgh, which, in consequence of a late thorough repair, has been made a very convenient place of worship. The manse is a new building, erected since the admission of the present incumbent, on a most delightful spot, beyond the town of Newburgh, to the eastward, in full view of the river Tay, and Carle of Gowrie.

Schools.—There are two schools in the parish, and one teacher in each school. The school, taught by the parish schoolmaster, is attended by 60 scholars, of whom 8 are taught Latin, 22 writing and arithmetic, and 30 English. The other school, which is private, and taught by a Seceder, is attended by 55 scholars, of whom 3 are taught Latin, 21 writing and arithmetic, and 31 English. During the winter season, both schools are resorted to, after the ordinary hours of labour, by a considerable number of grown up persons, for the purpose of learning English, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, and navigation. Of late years, the advantages of education, have been fully perceived by parents, and are eagerly sought for their children. There is one licensed preacher

preacher belonging to the parish, and three young men from the town of Newburgh, have either just finished, or are at present, prosecuting the study of physic, in the university of Edinburgh.

Poor.—There are no poor on the funds, who reside in the country part of the parish. The number of poor on the parish roll in the town, is considerable. They are maintained by the interest of accumulated sums of money, feu-duties of a superiority in lands purchased for their behoof, collections at the church door, and other casualties. Besides the money given in monthly pensions, considerable sums are distributed occasionally, to persons in straitened circumstances, who receive no stated supplies; and the education of about 8 children, is usually paid for.

Character and Manners of the People.—In a provincial town, inhabited chiefly by sailors and weavers, possessed of small properties, and nearly on a level with respect to riches, one does not look for polished manners, and the courtly attentions practised in great cities. Till of late years, the inhabitants of Newburgh were remarkable for their rusticity, and for the freedom with which they treated their superiors. “We will let the best Lord of the land ken, that when he sets his foot on Newburgh causeway, he is Bailie Lyell’s vassal,” was the boastful language in which they expressed their emancipation from feudal tyranny, and their enjoyment of political freedom. The present inhabitants retain the sense of independence, imbibed and cherished by their ancestors; but having shared in the effects of that civilization, which has recently produced so great a change on the manners of the nation at large, they are studious of displaying it with moderation and courtesy. They mingle with their neighbours in
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the transactions of commercial intercourse ; and they gradually assimilate to the general character of their countrymen. The bulk of the inhabitants undoubtedly merit the praise of sobriety and industry ; and instances of persons are not wanting, who, by signal propriety, in their own deportment, furnish a daily rebuke to the unprincipled and idle ; and, by superior attention to the education of their children, take the surest method of producing a thorough reformation on the manners of the people. No person belonging to the parish of Newburgh, has suffered the punishment of death for any crime, within the period to which its records extend. In times of peace, Perth receives its most expert sailors from this district ; whilst, in time of war, Newburgh supplies the Navy of Great Britain, with steady, well behaved, and gallant men.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—The parish, and in particular, the town of Newburgh, labours under several disadvantages. The country near it, on the south, is hilly, thinly inhabited, and badly provided with roads. Trade being already established at Perth and at Dundee, militates against its speedy acquisition of commercial consequence. The appointment too, of magistrates in Newburgh, without a revenue adequate to the support of their authority, may be reckoned unfavourable to it. When persons in power are dependent, regulations of police may be formed, but will seldom be executed. In every town, men are to be found of weight sufficient to thwart those schemes of improvement, which must be prosecuted at the personal expence of the projectors. But, notwithstanding these obvious obstacles, no spot on the whole north side of Fife, seems better calculated for preparing various kinds of manufacture for sale, and for supplying part of three counties, with foreign articles of consumption. It

lies open to the most distant markets, has convenient stations for shipping, and admits vessels of considerable burden. The fertile district of the Carle of Gowrie, is at no great distance, on the north; and a well cultivated country approaches on the E. and W. There, a malting concern, of great extent, might be established; and, in the immediate neighbourhood, might be found no inconvenient situation, for any work requiring a command of water, while Newburgh might furnish plenty of hands for carrying on the operations of the manufacturer; as there are hundreds in it already trained to the loom, who only want a spirited merchant, with an adequate capital, to direct their industry into a lucrative channel. The time cannot be far distant, when these obvious advantages will be seized, in an age of such commercial enterprise; and then the town of Newburgh, long poor, though independent, will become distinguished for the wealth, the industry, and the number of its inhabitants, and better entitled to the attention of the philosopher and the statesman.

NUMBER XI.

TOWN AND PARISH OF DUNDEE.

(County of Forfar.—Presbytery of Dundee.—Synod of Angus and Mearns.)

By the Rev. ROBERT SMALL, D. D. one of the Ministers of that City.

Origin of the Name.

THE modern name of the parish is Dundee, from the large town situated in it. This name, formerly, and even so late as the beginning of the present century, was generally spelled *Dondè* or *Dondie*; and in Queen Mary's charter *Dondei*, in law-Latin it is *Deidonum*; and it has been affirmed by various Highlanders, that they consider it as signifying, what this Latin imports, the Gift, or otherwise, the Hill of God. These circumstances give probability to the tradition, that it obtained the name, about the middle of the 12th century, from David Earl of Huntingdon, who landing here, after a dreadful storm in his return from the holy wars, designated by it to express his gratitude for his deliverance; and, in consequence of a vow, built the present parish church. Had the signification been the hill of Tay, as *Taodunum*, according to Buchanan, it would in Gaelic have been pronounced *Duntaw*. The ancient name was *Alec*, in Boece's Latin, *Alectum*

Alethum, and by this it is distinguished in the highlands. The signification of *Alec* is said to be pleasant or beautiful. The language spoken by the inhabitants, has, from time immemorial, been the broad Scotch; that is English or Saxon, with a peculiar provincial accent. The names of places in the parish are partly in this language, and partly Gaelic. Of the former kind are *Blacknefs*, *Goldside*, *Clepingtown* and *Claypots*. *Balgay*, *Dudbope*, *Drumgeith*, *Duntroon*, *Baldovie*, and various others are examples of the latter.

Situation, Extent, &c.—The parish of Dundee is situated, in the county of Angus, now called, in writings, Forfarshire, from the county town. The length from W. to E. is about 6 miles, but its breadth is various; for, towards the west end, it is nearly two miles, towards the middle, where the town stands, not more than one, and towards the east end, between three and four *. The territory of the parish belongs to a

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* As there is no map of the parish, it is hardly possible to communicate an intelligible description of its form. The ridge of mountains, which runs from Perth to the east promontory of Angus, called the Red Head, separating between this country and Strathmore, is well known, being a continuation of the Ochil Hills; and in the parts where it approaches nearest to the parish of Dundee, it is named the Siedlaw Hills, and Lorn's Hill. While these mountains run along the Carse of Gowrie, no new range rises between them and the Tay, and there the country is flat, and almost level; but, where the Carse terminates near Millfield, a new range rises of lower hills, running from Balgay Hill on the west, to the Knock-Hills near Arbroath on the east, where it forms the south boundary of a sort of vale or strath, contained between them and the ridge of Siedlaw and Lorn, &c. on the north. In this vale, no single great river runs, but it is watered by several streams, which descend from the northern ridge, and, after traversing various parts of the vale, make their way through the lower range into the Tay. On part of this lower range of hills, and chiefly on their southern exposure, the parish of Dundee is situated; towards the east end it is intersected by Dighty and Firthy, the principal of all the streams which run

great variety of proprietors. The valued rent of the whole is, 7874 l. 3 s. 2 d. Scotch. The real rent abstracting from the houses and gardens in the town, is probably between 8,000 l. and 9,000 l. Sterling. The number of Scottish acres, under culture, is about 3,400, and in plantation, about 300. The principal estates in the parish are those of Dudhope, with the other lands belonging to Lord Douglas, Craigie, Drumgeith, Baldovie, Pitkerro, Duntroon, Clepingtown, Wallace, Blacknesh, Upper Dudhope, Logie, and Balgay. None of these except the Duntroon and Douglas estates, have been above 100 years in possession of the family of its present proprietors. In most of the others, the property has been fluctuating; and, the average term of possession is rated sufficiently high at 20 years. Logie, Blacknesh, and Balgay, are said to be in the parish, only *quoad sacra*.

Situation of the Town.—From the south side of Balgay Hill, a small stream springs, which, running eastward, is joined by another on the west side of the Law; and both together continue their course south east, through a narrow low ground, till,

run from the higher ridge; and on the north, and also partly on the east, another of them, the Burn of Murroes, is the boundary which separates it from Murroes, and Moneyfieth. The parish however, is not mountainous, for the Law of Dundee, the highest hill in the whole range, is only 525 feet above the level of the Tay. Balgay Hill, to the west of the Law, is considerably lower; and the ground of Craigie, to the east of it, excepting at one point, is a gently rising bank. The appearance of the country is beautiful, particularly the south slope of all the grounds towards the Tay, the south slope of Duntroon Hill towards Fiethy, and the bottom where Dighty and Fiethy meet, and where they are soon after joined by the Burn of Murroes. Balgay Hill, besides its beautiful form, is covered with a thriving plantation of various trees; and the Law of Dundee, rising gently from some low grounds behind the town, is cultivated through its whole ascent, till at last it shoots into a round, green, and uncommonly pleasing summit.

till, after dividing the town of Dundee, nearly in the middle, they fall into the Tay. Another small stream, called Wallace Burn, rises on the north of the Law, and running east, and then south, falls into the Tay at the east end of the royalty, and at the distance of a quarter of a mile from the mouth of the former. Between these two, on the sea-shore, and on a low flat ground, the ancient town of Dundee is said to have been situated. It seems to have consisted of two parallel streets, the Seagate, and on the north of it the Cowgate. In the broadest part of the Seagate, remains of the ancient cross were some years ago to be seen; and, by marks in the present causeway, its situation is still distinguished. West from the mouth of the first stream, the ground rises into rocks, which are from 50 to 90 feet above the level of the Tay. On one of these, the ancient castle stood, and on the grounds lying among them, and declining towards the east and south from them, the more modern and largest part of the town is situated. When the great church was built by David Earl of Huntingdon, a great part of the grounds was probably in a state of cultivation, and the ordinary designation of the church was for a long time *the Kirk in the field*. From these rocks, the ground continues to rise all the way west to Balgay-Hill, and forms a sort of ridge, bounded on the south by the Tay, and on the north by the Balgay stream. The valley, where the stream runs, is exceedingly beautiful; and few situations can be conceived more delightful, than those of the castle of Dudhope, and the house of Logie to the north of the valley; of the house of Balgay, at its western extremity; or of Blackness on the ridge on the south of it. On this ridge, the late additions to the town have chiefly been built, and they extend along the summit, and on both sides of it, near to Blackness itself. Other considerable additions have, however, been also made in other quarters, particularly at the east end of the royalty,

beyond the low ground, on the north of it, and on the east of the ancient suburb known by the name of the *Bonnet-Hill*. The point of the principal pier in the harbour, is in $56^{\circ}. 27'. 23''$. of latitude, and in $3^{\circ}. 2'. 55''$. of longitude, west from Greenwich, or in time $12'. 11'$. The latitude may be considered as accurate, being the result of a great variety of observations made with a good Hadley's Quadrant, both in the meridian and other circles of altitude, at a place judged to be in the same parallel with the point now mentioned; but the conclusion for the longitude, is calculated only from a few lunar eclipses, and by geoditical deductions from the meridian of Hawk-Hill near Edinburgh.

Soil.—In a parish so extensive, there must be a considerable variety of soil. Little of it, however, is naturally rich. The rising ground, in particular, which runs west from the town towards Blackness, was originally thin and poor, with a gravelly bottom, and the surface was covered, probably, for a long time, with heath. About Blackness, the soil continues equally thin, and the bottom is of till. But, to the north of Blackness, particularly on the east end of the Hill of Balgay, the soil is deeper, and consists of a rich black earth. Except about the old castle of Dudhope, and on the low grounds behind the town of Dundee, the soil of the Law is poor, with a bottom of till. The ground to the eastward of the Law, though better, is not remarkably rich; a good part of Craigie, which consists of the best of it, was moor not 30 years ago, and the bottom is generally till. To the eastward of Craigie, the soil, in some farms of the Douglas estate, becomes better, and inclines to clay. The best land is in the bottom, where Dighy and Fiethy meet. It includes part of Baldovie and Drumgieth, and seems to be a deposit from these two waters. The estate of Pitkerro, bounded on three sides by Fiethy, Dighy, and

and the Burn of Murroes, consists of a soil good and dry, though rather thin, and the south bank of Duntroon is also fertile. The worst land lies to the north of the hills of Balgay, Duntroon, and the Law. But the neighbourhood of this large town seems to place all these varieties of soil upon a level. They are, in general, in a state of high cultivation, and produce valuable crops. Instead of large pieces of moor, which, within the last 30 years, were to be found every where, there is hardly to be seen a single spot. All is culture or plantation, except a few acres of common, and very little lies waste through neglect.

Cultivation.—The number of people, who have farms, is 31 or 32. But of farmers, properly so called, and who make farming their only business, there are not more than 15. The practice of one of the most industrious and intelligent, is as follows. He rents 130 acres at 40 s. per acre: he keeps constantly 7 servants, and 8 horses; he employs in spring 3 ploughs, each wrought by 2 horses, and in winter, 2 ploughs wrought by 4; and he uses 4 carts, whose dimensions are 8 feet by 4. His land is laid out in 7 divisions cultivated in this rotation: 1. fallow, 2. wheat, 3. potatoes and turnips horse-hoed, 4. barley, 5. oats, with grass seeds, 6. grass, chiefly fold green, and cut and carried off by the buyers, 7. grass cut for hay. In this rotation, the whole manure is given to the wheat, and the system seems to be approved of by his neighbours, and generally adopted. He begins to sow wheat in September, oats in March, barley in April, turnips from the 10th to the middle of June; and his crops of grain are generally reaped in September. The reaping is wholly performed by the sickle, and all the kinds of grain are bound in sheaves, and, while on the field, set up in shocks. An acre of good turnips sells from 7 l. to 10 l., according to the distance
from

from the town. The buyer takes them up and carries them off the grounds, and none are fed off in the field. The potatoes are chiefly planted by Dundee manufacturers, who also clean them with hand hoes, and take them up. The farmer puts the ground in proper order for receiving them, and draws from $\frac{1}{4}$ l. to 6 l. the acre. This practice is attended with the best effects, to the health and more easy subsistence of the manufacturer and his family; and to the farmer in clearing his land from weeds, which it does more effectually than any other method. An acre of good grafs, for green feeding, like the turnip, draws from 7 l. to 10 l. and even 12 l. The plough generally used is the improved Scotch one, though Small's plough begins also to be introduced. No threshing machines have hitherto been employed, though there are many in various parts of the neighbouring country, and though one kind of them is spoken of with approbation. Probably the reason is, that we have no farms so large as to make them necessary, or to pay sufficiently for the original expence. The corns, when brought off the field, are all stacked in the barn-yard, and generally raised about 3 feet above the ground, on wooden frames supported by stone pillars. Fanners have been, for a long time, the only instruments employed in winnowing. The principal manures, in addition to what every farm supplies, are dung from Dundee, and lime, chiefly from Sunderland. No services are in this parish exacted from the farmers; and this oppressive custom, though still subsisting in some other parts of Angus-shire, is here happily abolished.

Cattle.—The greatest part of the parish is inclosed with hedges and stone fences, but, except in some parts distant from the town, the inclosures are seldom used for pasture. The cattle of all kinds are good, but the parish is not remarkable for any peculiar breed. The farmers breed some horses, but
by

by no means in number sufficient for the demands of the neighbourhood, or for their own labour. The market in Dundee, for all kinds of butcher meat, is one of the best in Scotland*. No sheep are bred, or even fattened for sale, except a few by Mr. Guthrie of Craigie. He has tried in his inclosures the large south country breed, and endeavoured to introduce that of Mr. Bakewell, with tolerable success. The birds and quadrupeds, which are not domesticated, are the same that frequent the other low country parishes near the sea, and seem to require no particular enumeration. No part of the parish is subject to inundations, except the bottom where Fiethy and Dighty join; but no considerable damage is done, either to the grounds, or to the crops upon them; and though the equinoctial tides sometimes rise high, they have not, in any person's memory, been hurtful.

Climate and Diseases.—No part of the parish can be called unhealthy. The higher and west part of the town of Dundee, and the whole ridge, on which the principal additions to it have been built, is naturally as healthy a situation, (from its gravelly bottom, the constant current of the tides, and its exposure to the S. W. winds,) as, perhaps, any in the world. Even the suburbs to the N. E. though on a bottom of till, are healthy, for the declivity of the situation prevents all stagnation of water. The low grounds behind the town are, indeed,

* The veal, in particular, has of late years become excellent, in consequence of an improvement introduced, by a gentleman in the neighbourhood, in the management of the calves. Instead of confining them in low, dirty, and open stalls, they are placed in boxes raised some feet above the ground, by which means they are more easily kept clean, warm, and dry, and care is also taken by giving a cover to every box, to exclude the light. In consequence of these and some other attentions, the veal equals, if not excels, the best produced in England.

deed, hitherto, but insufficiently drained, and the houses to the south, which border on them, exhibit some inconsiderable marks of dampness. But the principal causes of unhealthiness in Dundee, are the height of the houses, the narrowness of the tenements and of some streets, by which the people were too much crowded upon one another. The bounds of the royalty were too confined for the increasing number of the inhabitants, and it was only within the last 30 years, that they began to extend their buildings beyond its limits. But with all these defects, Dundee may be considered as a very healthy place; the small-pox, indeed, is often epidemical and fatal, for inoculation is, hitherto, but imperfectly introduced; but fevers are seldom infectious, and agues almost unknown. The crowded places of the town, indeed, are unfavourable to children, but probably not more so than other crowded places; and as one evidence of its healthiness, it may be mentioned, that in a district containing 1800 inhabitants, only two persons, in the summer of 1789, were found confined to bed. Less rain falls here than at Perth, for, by the Carse and Siedlaw hills to the north, and the Fife hills to the south, the clouds are attracted, and frequently carried away from this town and neighbourhood*. The village of the Ferry, in particular, at the east end of the parish, near Broughty castle, is uncommonly dry and wholesome, and, perhaps, better fitted for sea-bathing, than any other place on the east coast of Scotland. The most frequent endemial diseases are consumptions and the scrophula, by which last, perhaps, the former are principally produced. The scrophula seems chiefly to affect the families of linen-weavers, who sometimes feed poorly, and whose manufacture is carried on in damp and low floors. We have no lake, or even pool of standing water

* No tradition or history speaks of any damage done in Dundee by thunder, and probably the situation and form of the Law is our security, and enables it

water, except one, which is dry in summer, and the declivity of the ground in all places, speedily carries off the rain.

Fossils, Springs, &c.—Unless whin-stone and porphyry may be classed among volcanic productions, nothing of this kind has been discovered. These two, particularly the first, compose the principal part of the hills and rising grounds in the parish. The porphyry is chiefly on the lands of Balgay and Blackness. There are, however, various quarries of what we call free-stone. This is much harder than the free-stone about Edinburgh, and is evidently stratified. It is a sand-stone, and sometimes incloses many pebbles, such as now lie on all our shores, and are rounded by the dashing of the waters. From the quarries of this kind in the neighbourhood, and especially along the coast, stones for building in the town are often taken. But the best quarry, and what builders principally employ, is that of Kingoodie on the estate of Mill-field, in the parish of Forgan; and lighters bring the stone immediately from the quarry. Though composed of coarser par-

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to act, in some degree, as an electrical conductor. We have no water spouts, or whirlwind, and, excepting the meteor, which, some years ago, passed along the whole island no remarkable phenomena are remembered in the air. The aurora borealis differs nothing from those in other places of Scotland, and, except during a settled course of frost, it is generally followed by wind and rain from the south. From a meteorological register, kept for some years past, by Mr. Fairweather, a gentleman in the neighbourhood of the town, it appears, that the annual average of rain, which fell from January 1783, to January 1792, is 22, 12 inches, or, abstracting from the uncommonly rainy year of 1789, 21, 23, that the average height of Fahrenheit's thermometer, for the months of June, July, and August, at two o'clock afternoon, was for the same years 63, 85, and for the months of December, January, and February, at 8 in the morning 34, 78. The house, where this register was kept, is situated in the south exposure of the bank below Blackness, and about 40 feet above the level of the Tay.

ticles, and incapable of being so smoothly polished as the stone from some other quarries, particularly those of Craigie and Invergourie, it is much more durable, and in many parts of the great steeple, built from it, in the 12th century, especially in the higher and more exposed parts, the marks of the chissel are still visible. The colour is grey, inclining a little to blue. Another sand-stone of a redish colour and softer texture, is found immediately west from the town, and at high water generally covered by the tide; but it is so perishable as to be of little use. We have no figured stones, no petrifications, no limestone or marble, and no granite or other alpine stone, except a few loose and detached pieces, which bear the appearance of being rounded by water. A very small quantity of grey slate is found in the free-stone quarries on the lands of Craigie; but it is nothing different from the rest of the quarry, except that it splits into thinner strata. There are no mines of any kind, nor any mineral springs except two, and these so slightly tinged with iron, as hardly to deserve the name. Some excellent springs break out near the town, at the bottom of the Law, one especially called the *Lady Well*, whose waters are conveyed in leaden pipes through the different streets of the town, and supply the greatest part of it. The waters from most of these, on boiling, leave a stony crust on the vessels employed for that purpose any considerable time; but we have no springs which, with propriety, can be called petrifying.

Coast Tides, &c.—The Tay is between 2 and 3 miles broad, where it bounds the parish, and it extends nearly along its utmost length. The adjacent coast is generally high and rocky. At the west end, along the lands of Balgay, it is perpendicular, and more than 40 feet high; along those of Blackness it falls lower, till, in approaching the town, it becomes a precipice

piece of gravel, apt to be undermined by the sea, and encroached on by the wind. In all the tract of ground, west from the town, there are but one or two places where small vessels can come to land. The harbour of Dundee lies to the south of the rocks, on which the principal part of the town is situated ; and here the ground slopes to the water more gently, and the harbour is capable of receiving vessels of 300 tons. Eastward from the flat ground, where the ancient part of the town was built, and along the estate of Craigie, the shore again becomes rocky, but in several places small vessels may come to land. Beyond this estate, the coast falls lower, excepting at one promontory called the *Hare Craigs*, and at the Ferry, near Broughty Castle, it becomes a flat *links*, with a fine gravelly beach, where larger vessels may safely approach. In the tides there is no peculiarity. As the current in the north sea flows south, we have high water about half an hour sooner than at Leith, and at the harbour the rise from low to high water is, in the highest streams, about 18 or 20 feet. Some rocks lie off the harbour, but, excepting 4, which have buoys, or beacons, they rise above the surface of the water. The current of the Tay, especially after land floods, is rapid. Many sand banks lie to the eastward between this harbour and Errol, and they are all on the north side of the river. The principal channel of the Tay is on the Fife shore, and it is only by this that vessels of any burden can go up to Perth or Newburgh. Continual incroachments are made by this river, on the low lands of the Carse of Gowrie, and the Inch of Mugdrum, opposite to Errol ; and the soil which is washed away, comes down with the tide, and is deposited all along our shores, especially in the harbour. A basin, which they shut at high water, and open when the tide has left the harbour, was, for a long time, the only resource for clearing away the soil, which is thus deposited. The

same method is still employed, but a more effectual one has lately been adopted, of opening arched passages in some of the piers. Through these the current moves rapidly, and prevents the soil from settling; and before this contrivance the harbour was in danger of being filled up. To the east of the harbour, all the way to Broughty Castle, there is an excellent road for ships of any burden, which can get within the bar, across the mouth of the river. This is about 8 miles below Dundee, and as vessels can hardly attempt to cross it, in a storm, many shipwrecks happen on the coast beyond it, when the storm is from the east, and the vessels are found too near the shore. The principal scene of these wrecks is St. Andrew's bay, and the coast of Angus between Barry and Arbroath. Even within the bar, and till the vessels have passed Broughty Castle, the coasts on both sides are dangerous, consisting of flat sands.

River and Sea Productions.—The fresh water streams of Dighty, Fiethy, and the Burn of Muroes, have trouts in them, and Dighty has some pikes, but no salmon; except at the end of the fishing season, when a few of what are called *foul fish*, or *kelt*, are caught, and no fish of almost any other kind, except some sea trout, after it leaves the parish, to fall into the Tay at Monyfieth. Though the Tay abounds in salmon, there are but 4 or 5 fishings on all our extent of coast; nor do almost any white fish, except a species of flounders, called *fresh waters*, come within the bar. In the sands of the river we have a few small crabs; one bank yields periwinkles; shrimps are caught on all of them, and smelts in the channel, on the shore of Fife, near Balmerino, where the water becomes less salt than at Dundee. In some years, towards August, large shoals of porpoises appear, and regularly go up and down with the tide, from the mouth of the river as far as Errol, in pursuit of salmon, but no method has hitherto been found of catching them. Seals are numerous, and also destructive

to the salmon ; but various methods are practised of catching these ; and as they soon leave the places where they are once disturbed, they are now seldom seen farther up than Mony-
sieith. The salmon, caught in the river, go principally to the London market, fresh or pickled. To carry them fresh, the method first suggested by Mr. George Dempster, of packing them in ice, has been found of the greatest consequence, and is now constantly adopted. The price of salmon here is always regulated by that of the London market, and generally goes beyond it. Our salmon fishings begin later than towards Perth, and consequently less is carried in a fresh state to London. The rent of all the salmon fishings in the river probably exceeds 3000 l. annually ; but of this rent, those on our shores yield a very inconsiderable part. The currents of the Tay being rapid, the channels of its waters are often changed, and, consequently, in this part of the river the salmon often change their course, and the annual value of any particular fishing alters. A fishing on the Fife shore, opposite to Broughty Castle, was let in 1789, at no greater yearly rent than 40 l. and in that year the tacksmen is said to have cleared no less than 300 l. As the parish is situated a good way within the bar of the river, we have no sea weed for manure. Some kelp is made, but in so small a quantity, that the shores yield no rent ; and any person who pleases is allowed to burn it. I know of no uncommon plants in the parish, or any uncommon shells upon its shores ; neither sponges nor corals are to be found.

On the sea coast, without the bar, great numbers of sea-fish are caught ; haddocks, whittings, cod, ling, plaice, dab, flounders, soles, turbot, holibut, skate, mackarel, and herrings. Of these, the haddocks were the principal, and the most readily bought up. They were some years a gain such plenty, as to be an important article of food for the common people ; but
for

for more than three years they have entirely left the coast. They were always in season, except from February to May. The cod and ling are not plentiful, and they are inferior in quality to those taken farther north. The mackarel and herrings come from beyond Fife Ness, and are principally taken in Autumn. All the towns of Angus afford excellent markets for all these kinds of fish, the town of Dundee especially; but it is now poorly and irregularly supplied. Between Monyfieth and Arbroath, considerable quantities of crabs and lobsters are found. The lobsters went chiefly to the London market, till lately, that by overfishing, none were to be had of a proper size, and, on this account they were for some time spared, and more of them come to the market of Dundee. Muscles and cockles come from the mouth of the Eden, near St. Andrews, and are sold by measure. The defect of our sea fishing is, that the fishermen live too far up the river, and, their boats being smaller than in the times when smuggling prevailed, they do not go out to deep enough water, and cannot always venture to cross the bar, We have no oysters, and all attempts to settle them in the river, have hitherto been unsuccessful.

Antiquities, Curiosities, &c.—On the top of the Law of Dundee, which is the most remarkable hill in the parish, there are the remains of a fortification, the ditch of which is still visible. Though the whole inclosure, which is of a square form, is not of the same structure with the towers, which have been supposed to be cemented by the force of fire, one small part of it has been thus compacted. Probably on this the fires for alarming the town were lighted; and, by the frequent lighting, some of the stones have been put in fusion. Along a good part of the shore on the estate of Craigie, several urns of unburnt clay, containing ashes, have been found,
and

and several stone coffins with bones ; and, though the most of these are of the common form, some, without any difference in the size of the bones, are only three feet square. On the lands of Balgay, there is one of those subterraneous dwellings, or places of retreat, ascribed to the ancient Picts ; and, although it has not been yet explored, it is certainly of uncommon extent.—The skeleton of the first elephant dissected in Britain, was some years ago to be seen ; the dissection was made by Dr. Blair, an eminent physician of Dundee, and a memoir which he drew up concerning it, is to be found in the London Philosophical Transactions.—From the council minutes, which yet remain, it appears, that coal mines were wrought in Scotland, at a much more early period than is commonly believed ; for they shew, that in the 16th century, coals were the principal and common fuel. The same minutes furnish many evidences of the uncertain and changeable value of money ; for, in 1589, the price of a boll of coals, which probably consisted, as at present, of 800 lb. weight, and which now sells at 6 s. cost, in 1610, 1 s. 6½ d. Mr. David Lindsay the parson, (who afterwards was bishop of Brechin, and probably translated thence to Edinburgh,) values 13 bolls of meal, 13 bolls of oats, and 10 bolls of wheat, paid him out of the Abbey of Lindores, at no more than 8 l. 6 s. 8 d. yearly ; and in place of that quantity of victual, has that annual sum settled on him by the council : and, in the same year, Mr. James Gleg leaves the regency or professorship of St. Salvator's college, St. Andrews, in order to be chosen rector of the Dundee grammar school, with no greater yearly salary, than 16 l. 13 s. 4 d. and no higher quarterly payments from his scholars, than 6½ d. The plague also appears in ancient times to have been very frequent ; and, besides the dreadful ravages it made in Dundee about the year 1566, and for

for the last time in 1607, the inhabitants seem to have never been perfectly free from alarms concerning it *.

Population.—As to the state of the population of the town and parish, in remote times, it is impossible to give any accounts; nor can those which we may attempt to give, even for the last century, be deemed fully satisfactory. The greatest part of the ancient records and documents, is said to have been carried off or destroyed, at the various sieges of the town, and especially when it was stormed by Monk; and though some council minutes remain, as far back at 1587, and a record of persons inrolled as burghers, beginning in 1513, they afford very little assistance in this investigation. The register of baptisms and marriages, reaches no farther back than 1645, and contains no more than five complete years before the fatal assault in 1651. As, however, we have of late years, three actual enumerations of the inhabitants, one in 1766, when their number was found to be 12,426; one in 1781, when it turned out 15,700; and one in 1788, when it was 19,329, we are enabled, from a comparison of the marriages near these periods, with the marriages about 1651, to form some probable conjectures about its former population. The annual average of the marriages for the 5 years, previous to 1651, is 85.

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* Under the head of antiquities may also be stated the various attacks and sieges of the town. It was twice taken by the English in the days of King Edward I. and as often retaken by the heroes Wallace and Bruce, and the castle was demolished by the latter. It was again taken and reduced to ashes by Richard II. and a fourth time by the English, who, in the reign of Edward VI. held Broughty Castle. The Marquis of Montrose took it by assault, and gave it up to pillage, which seems to have been prevented by the approach of an army of the Covenanters; and to cover his retreat from them, the north and east parts of it were set on fire. The last and most destructive siege, when it was again taken by assault, and completely pillaged, was in Cromwell's time by General Monk.

But the annual average of the marriages, for the 5 years, immediately preceding 1766, is 140; and as 140 to 12,426, the actual number of inhabitants, in 1766, so is 85 to 7544. The average number of marriages again for the 5 years preceding 1781, is 149, and as 149 to 15,700, so is 85 to 8957; and, in like manner, as 215, the average number of the marriages for the 5 years preceding 1788, is to 19,329, so is 85 to 7641. These are the three results for the number of the inhabitants in 1651; the medium of the three brings it out 8,047; and, it is probable, that this conjecture does not err widely from the truth. It is true, that a similar comparison, instituted between the averages of the baptisms, at these different periods, would bring out in 1651, a population not less than 12,597; but more respect seems, on many accounts, to be due to the register of marriages, than to that of baptisms. All marriages, whether regular or not, have hitherto been carefully recorded; but, besides that many neglect, or find it inconvenient, to record their children's names, (and these omissions are much more readily overlooked, in large places, than in small), it is to be observed, that previous to 1651, there were few or no sectaries; whereas, since the revolution in 1688, and especially, since the rise of the Independents and Seceders, about 1732, many have thought registration in the records of the Established Church, inconsistent with their religious principles: consequently, the number of recorded baptisms, must now bear a less proportion to the number of inhabitants than it did formerly; and, the result, for the former population, which is drawn from them, must come out too great.

The loss of people in the siege by Monk, and especially in the carnage at the storming of the town, appears, on many accounts, to have been great, and cannot be estimated at much less than a sixth part of the whole inhabitants. Of 159 children, born within the eight months immediately following, no less

than 25 are posthumous; and as 159, to 8047, the whole number of inhabitants, so is 25 to 1265, the number that may be supposed to have been destroyed. It is true, that this diminution of inhabitants does not produce any immediate effect upon the marriages, or baptisms, recorded in the register; nay, that in the 4x succeeding years, the marriages are more numerous than before the siege. But among these, 66 are the marriages of English soldiers; and though the baptisms, during this period, are not upon the whole increased, but in a small degree diminished, 255 of them are of soldiers' children. Besides, the money spent by a numerous garrison could not fail to attract people by the hopes of profit; and, the exact discipline of Cromwell's troops, and the regular distribution of justice, which took place during the whole time of his usurpation, gave them full and unusual security in their various occupations. But on the withdrawing of the garrison, the deficiency of inhabitants, becomes immediately evident. Notwithstanding the accessions which the garrison has been supposed to attract, a calculation from the marriages brings out, after the restoration, a diminution of 875 in the population; and, towards the end of the reign of Charles II. and during the whole reign of James VII. a diminution of 1420.

This diminution of population cannot be ascribed to the flight or removal of the inhabitants, on the foresight of the siege; for many persons, and some even of the highest rank, had repaired to Dundee, as a place of security, and strength. Among these, I find the Earls of Buchan, Tweddale, Buccleugh and Roseberry; the Viscount of Newburgh; the lords Balcarras, Elibank, Yester and Ramsay; and the master of Burley; 15 persons also bearing titles of knighthood; 11 other gentlemen of landed property; 9 of the Faculty of Advocates; 24 writers, merchants, and indwellers of Edinburgh; and 6 citizens of the Canongate, Leith and Musselburgh,

Some

Some even of the clergy from the south found it necessary to take shelter in Dundee particularly Messrs. Oliver Colt ; at Muffelburgh, Stevenson at Dunbar, and Reid of the West Kirk Edinburgh. All these are mentioned in the register, as parents or witnesses to the baptisms recorded in it. One of the children recorded is Anne, afterwards Dutchess of Monmouth; and the house where she was born is still pointed out*. In this destruction of so many inhabitants, many strangers were involved, those especially who appeared as defenders of the town. The governor Lumisden, of the family of Invergelly in Fife, is said, on the irruption of the English, to have taken possession of the great steeple ; and, being soon after obliged to surrender at discretion, he and all with him were massacred in the church yard. In the same place also, the

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two

* It may, perhaps, be an object of curiosity, at least, to an inhabitant of Dundee, to know the names of the persons whose posthumous children are recorded, and, who probably fell in the siege, or after it. They are John Duncan, Donald Durbar, Robert Ritchieson, James Guthrie, Andrew Kinneries, merchants; Robert Bultie, unmarried, of a respectable mercantile family now extinct; Major Robert Lindsay, probably son of one designed late of Kinnettles; Thomas Annand, taylor; George Barrie, mealmaker; David Elder, weaver; Thomas Nicol and Alexander Hill, maltmen; William Glenney, seaman; John Nicol baxter; George Anderson, hammerman; and of persons whose designations are not given, James Angus, unmarried; James Thain, John Diston, John Johnson, Thomas Smith, John Kennedy, John Lyon, Thomas Watson, William Oughterlony, James Stibbles. As an object of similar curiosity, the following not inelegant epitaphs, on the tomb stones of two other persons, who seem to have been of considerable note, are inserted.

" *Monumentum ROBERTI DAVIDSON, pratoris vigilantissimi, qui, dum fortiter & magnanimitur urbis oppugnatione dimicabat, letaliter ab hostibus vulneratus, pro civitate et suis vitam reddidit. Cal. Septembris, Anno Salutis humane MDCLI.* "

" *Monumentum GEORGI BROWN, pratoris meritissimi, qui, hoc pratura munere per decennium feliciter defunctus, undique pugnando letaliter ab hostibus vulneratus; quibus vulneribus per Martem languidus, mortem, natura debitum, pro civitate et patria reddidit. 2do. Nonas Octobris, Anno Dom. 1651. Etatis sexagesimo.* "

two battallions of Lord Duffus's regiment are said to have been slaughtered; and, another body suffered the like fate, in the square called the fish-market. No unusual provocation appears to have been given to this severity. On the contrary, Mr. Gumble, general Monk's chaplain, and who writes his life, speaks in high terms of the governor, for his gallant and brave defence. His head was, notwithstanding, cut off and fixed upon a spike, in one of the abutments at the south west corner of the steeple; and, till a few years ago, when the stone where the spike was inserted, fell down, the remains of it were observable. The same indignity appears also to have been done to others. It is a tradition here, that the carnage did not cease till the third day, when a child was seen in a lane, called the Thorter-Row, sucking its murdered mother. Several persons also, on this occasion, were carried prisoners to London, probably along with the 300 officers surprised by Monk's Colonels, Alured and Morgan, at Alyth, when, collecting a body to raise the siege. Among the prisoners, were Mr. Andrew Affleck, the parson, or first minister, and Mr. John Robertson the Vicar. They were detained at London till spring 1653; and, after their return Mr. Robertson was some time confined in the common prison of Dundee. Mr. Affleck was ancestor to the two brothers, Admiral and Captain Affleck in the royal navy. The date of this mercilefs assault, was the first of September 1651.

Though no probable account can be given of the population in remote times, the town of Dundee appears to have been long ago a place of considerable note. Edward I. thought it of sufficient consequence to be occupied by an English garrison; and, the illustrious WALLACE, (with his companions John Blair, probably of the Balthayock family, and Sir N. Campbell of Lochow,) is said, by tradition, to have received his education at the Dundee school, and in this situa-

tion,

tion, to have begun his exploits, with the death of the son to the English governor. Of the 4 boroughs, Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee and Aberdeen, which were of such consequence, in all the reigns, after that of Robert Bruce, as to give security for the observation of national treaties, it was the third in rank : Its share, in the reign of James VI. of the whole public taxes, was a 25th part, and of those laid upon the boroughs, sometimes a tenth part, but more frequently a 5th ; and of the 1200 merks imposed upon the towns of Dundee, Forfar, Arbroath and Perth, for fitting out the yacht, *Mary-gallant*, to fetch home the king and queen from Denmark, the proportion paid by Dundee was 700. At the storm by Monk, Gumble speaks of it as a very rich and thriving place ; he tells us, in particular, of 60 ships taken in the harbour, and sent away loaded with booty, consisting chiefly of plate and money ; and, disapproving of the rapacity of the plunderers, mentions, with apparent satisfaction, the loss of the whole fleet, in crossing the bar of the river.

A calamity, probably no less fatal to the town of Dundee, than the siege and storm by Monk, was the severe 7 years dearth in the end of the last century. The annual average of marriages for 5 years, was at that time reduced to 54; and from the effects of this calamity, we never recovered till several years after the rebellion in 1745. Though the union of the kingdoms put an end to the arbitrary and tyrannical proceedings of the government in Scotland, it produced a new cause of depression to this particular district. Our staple manufacture was the spinning and weaving the coarse woollens, called *Plaiding*. These were sent to the Dutch market, and there thickened and dyed, for clothing to the troops in various parts of Germany. This branch of trade, we have, by the loss of our Dutch and French privileges, lost so completely since the Union, that now no remainder of it is to be found. The annual
average

average of the marriages, for the 5 years preceding 1746, does not exceed 56; this gives a population no greater than 5302; and from other reasons, it is probable, that this conclusion is not much below the truth. At the cross, in the principal street of the town, there were not in that year, above 4 or 5 houses completely built of stone, all the rest were partly of wood. No shop rented at more than 2 l., or at the utmost 3 l.; the retailers who rented them were generally poor, and three shops at the cross, which three years ago were sold for 450 l. each, were then entirely shut. At that time, also, there were only two churches, for public worship; and though there were no Seceding meeting-houses, and the Independent congregation was very inconsiderable, if one church was well filled on Sundays, the other was nearly empty.

We have no register of burials, that can be depended upon, except for the last 5 years; and this we owe entirely to the care and attention of Dr. Willison, one of our principal physicians. As the insertion of the whole would swell this account to too great bulk, the facts which follow, as seeming to be most important, are extracted from it. From February 1st. 1787 to ditto 1788, the number of burials was 552; from 1788 to 1789, in which period a very malignant kind of small pox raged, the number was 867; from 1789 to 1790, it was 609; from 1790 to 1791, when the small pox again raged, accompanied with the chincough, it was 840, and from 1791 to 1792, 890. The annual average of burials, therefore, for these 5 years, is 752; and the proportion of deaths, to the whole number of inhabitants, may, with probability, be reckoned nearly that of 1 to 31. The excess of the burials in 1791, above those of any year, wherein the small pox did not prevail, is principally to be ascribed to fresh accessions of inhabitants; for, though a putrid sore throat was at that time epidemical, I do not find, after the most minute inquiries,

that

that it was fatal to more than 50 people. The proportion of burials, of males to those of females, is nearly as 110 to 125; whereas the proportion of births, of males to those of females, taken from the record of baptisms, by a medium of averages for 5 years, at different periods, is nearly as 145 to 128. The average number of children, dying under 2, is 236: from 2 to 5, 98; and of still-born children 50. The most fatal period to people advanced in life, is from 60 to 70, where the annual average of deaths is 57; and to young people past childhood, from 15 to 25, when the same average is 47. The most fatal months are January, March, and December, the averages of burials in these being respectively 88, 73, 74. But, perhaps the most important fact in the whole register, and which ought to excite attention from the persons most averse to the practice of inoculation, is, that, while in 1787 and 1789, the average number of children dying under 5, was only 171, a similar average for the years 1788 and 1790, in which the small pox raged, arose to the astonishing sum of 420. The whole number of people reported as dying above 90, in all the 5 years of the register, is 35; of whom one was in the 99th year; another above the 100th, another in the 102d, and another probably in the 107th year of their several lives. The name of the last was James Peter, who died in 1790. A corresponding date of his father and mother's marriage, was certainly found in the parish register of Dunnichen. Their marriage was said to have subsisted only 1 year, and he affirmed, that he was their only child.

Since the enumeration in 1788, the town continues to increase with greater rapidity than before; and the whole inhabitants of the town and parish can hardly be estimated at less than 24,000; they are certainly rated sufficiently low at 23,000. They reside chiefly in the town and suburbs; and, as the inhabitants, of what may be properly called the country

try parish, do not exceed 1100, (and this is nearly double their number in 1759), the town and suburbs of Dundee may be said to contain from 22,000 to 22,500 souls. The return to Dr. Webster in 1755, for the town and district, was only 12,477 souls; so that calculating the population now at the medium number of 23,500, the increase is 11,123 souls. On the borders of the parish, there are two villages, the North Ferry near Broughty Castle, part of which runs into the parish of Monifieth, and our proportion of people in it is 166: the other is Loch-eye, chiefly in the parish of Liff; and in this our proportion is hitherto but inconsiderable.

Manufactures. The principal and staple manufacture of Dundee is linen of various kinds; viz. 1. Osnaburghs, and other similar coarse fabrics of different names, for exportation, and which alone, till lately, were subjected to the national stamps. The quantity of these stamped, between November 1788 and ditto 1789, amounted to 4,242,653 yards, valued at 108,782 l. 14 s. 2 d.; and subtracting from this a fourth part, supposed to be brought from six neighbouring parishes, to the Dundee stamp offices, there will remain for the quantity made in this parish, 3,181,990 yards, in value, 80,587 l. 0 s. 8 d. 2. All the different sorts of canvas for shipping. This fabric is entirely confined to the town, and the quantity annually made may be rated at 704,000 yards, and valued at 32,000 l. The cloth of this kind, made by some of the principal manufacturers, is thought to be superior in quality to any other in Britain; and, by a regulation now introduced, and for which we are chiefly indebted to Mr. Graham of Fintry, of subjecting it to the inspection of public stamp-masters, will probably retain its character. A process is also known, by which the buyer, at a small additional expence, may

The quantity annually made, may amount to 16,000 yards, and may be valued at 800 l. 4. Bagging for cotton wool, in quantity 165,000 yards, and in value 5,500 l. 5. Some diaper by one company lately established. 6. The greatest part of all the linen necessary for household purposes; but the quantity and value of this cannot be exactly ascertained.

Besides all these kinds of linen, the manufacture of cotton has been lately introduced, and will probably soon become a very important branch of business. Seven companies are already engaged in it. They employ about 400 men, women and children, in spinning cotton into yarn for wool. They are supposed to spin annually 135,000 lbs. of yarn, valued at 20,250 l.; and, with warp, which they buy from distant cotton mills, most of these companies have begun to work up their yarn into calicoes, handkerchiefs, and coarse waistcoats. One company also spins yarn for muslin, to the annual value of 3000 l. An English company from Lambeth is also engaged in establishing an woollen manufacture, where every branch of the business, from the wool to the finished cloth, is proposed to be carried on. The looms employed in all the kinds of weaving, and in all parts of the parish, are from 1800 to 1900.

The manufacture of coloured thread has been established in Dundee for 50 or 60 years, and was for a considerable time peculiar to it. This business is in the hands of 7 different companies or masters, who use 66 twisting mills, and employ about 1340 spinners, and 370 servants, to make the yarn into thread. The quantity annually made is computed at 269,568 lb. and valued at 33,696 l. The spinners live in distant parts of Scotland, where labour is cheaper than in Dundee.

The value of leather, tanned annually in Dundee, is computed at 14,200 l. About 32 persons are employed in tanning, who use 5000 l. worth of oak bark; about 12 as

curriers, in dressing part of what is tanned for upper leathers to shoes; 95 in making boots and shoes for exportation, and 200 in supplying the consumption of the town. The value of boots and shoes exported may be about 4385 l. As the demand for tanned leather has, for some years, greatly increased, considerable difficulty is found in procuring raw hides, and the price of oak bark is doubled. This business is upon the increase. Two new enterprising and active companies have of late engaged in it, so that probably it will be more than doubled.

Two companies are engaged in manufacturing cordage of all kinds for shipping, and ropes for all the various uses of the country. They employ about 30 persons, and they also carry on the whole business of ship-chandlers. Soap was some years ago manufactured to a considerable amount; but this business now declines, and last year only yielded of duty to government the sum of 1828 l. 19 s. 0 $\frac{1}{4}$. It is thought that this business will not only be abandoned here, but that it will soon be totally lost to Scotland. The supposed causes are either regulations of excise, partial to England, or superior rigour in carrying the common regulations into execution. It is possible, however, that the real cause may be foolish attempts to undersell their richer English neighbours. It may here be mentioned, as an article of curiosity, that soap making was an art known in Dundee, as far back as the 16th century.

Within these 3 or 4 years, the manufacture of glass has been introduced, and the company engaged in it have erected two glass-houses; one for bottles, and the other for the white kinds of window glass. They employ in the business 100 persons, and last year it yielded to government a duty of 3046 l. Many persons are also employed in manufacturing tobacco and snuff; and one company is engaged in a sugar house, but of its importance

importance to the community, no particular account has been obtained.

Besides these, and some other branches of manufacture, omitted as being yet in their infancy, (for example, cast iron and salt,) or though long established, sufficiently accounted for by the taxes they pay to Government; 2 banking companies are established in Dundee; and two distant companies, one in Edinburgh, and one in Paisley, have opened bank offices. The quantity of paper money, in constant circulation from all the four, is estimated at 160,000 l. Insurances against fire are also made by a company, consisting of 50 or 60 persons, whose property is supposed to amount to half a million; and by whom, though formed into a company only a few years ago, insurances are already made to the value of 800,000 l.

Revenue paid to Government.—Some part of the revenue, arising from Dundee to Government, may be accurately or nearly ascertained, but a much more considerable part must be left to conjecture.

Of the first kind are the duties of excise for the year, ending with the 5th of July 1792, and communicated in the most obliging manner, by Mr. Mitchell, supervisor; and they are accompanied with a comparative state of the excise duties in 1751.

| | In 1751, | | | In 1791. | | |
|-----------------|----------|----|----|----------------------------------|----|-----|
| | L. | s. | d. | L. | s. | d. |
| Malt, - | 811 | 13 | 1½ | 1436 | 7 | 11½ |
| Ale and beer, - | 1214 | 15 | 3½ | 1690 | 2 | 1 |
| Candles, - | 160 | 4 | 2 | 622 | 2 | 10½ |
| Hides, - | 283 | 11 | 8½ | 1017 | 1 | 2 |
| Soap, - | none | - | - | 1828 | 19 | 0½ |
| Glass, - | none | - | - | 3406 | 0 | 5½ |
| Bricks, - | none | - | - | 14 | 17 | 6 |
| Total, | L. 2470 | 4 | 3 | Carried over, — L. 10,015 11 0 1 | | |

Custom-

| | | |
|--|--|------------------|
| Brought over, — | | L. 10,015 11 0 |
| Customhouse duties for the year ending January 1. | | |
| 1798, and communicated with like readiness, by | | |
| Mr. Hunter clerk of the customs, - - | | 6341 17 11 |
| Land-tax, and other taxes in the country part of the | | |
| parish, levied by the country collector, - - | | 341 8 2 |
| Town-cess, and other taxes within the royalty, levied | | |
| by the town's collectors - - - - | | 949 19 0 |
| Excise licences of all the various kinds about, - | | 512 2 0 |
| Ale licences, about, - - - - - | | 280 18 6 |
| Duties on 73,447 lb. of snuff and manufactured to- | | |
| bacco, paid at the places of original importation, | | 4902 18 9 |
| Produce of the post office in 1791, about, - | | 1600 0 0 |
| Of the second kind, are the duties on salt, allowing 4 | | |
| bushels yearly to 5 persons, - - | | 690 0 0 |
| Duties on 583½ tons of sugar, of which 7 20ths are | | |
| supposed to be unmanufactured, 8 20ths refined, and | | |
| 5 20ths ground or powdered, and reckoned equiva- | | |
| lent in taxation to 621 tons, - - | | 9315 0 0 |
| Duties on 47743 lb. of tea, estimated at, - - | | 895 2 6 |
| Duties on stamped paper not less than, - - | | 1000 0 0 |
| Excise duties on wines and spirits imported immedi- | | |
| ately from foreign parts, - - - | | 2030 16 6½ |
| Ditto on ditto, from other parts in the kingdom, ac- | | |
| cording to a mean of three estimations. - | | 5970 0 0 |
| Duties on innumerable other articles, manufactured | | |
| soap, groceries, drugs, starch, indigo, cambric, mus- | | |
| lin, silk, paper, newspapers, perfumery, malt-liquor, | | |
| hops, &c. &c. &c., imported - - | | 12,000 0 0 |
| So that the revenue arising to government, | | |
| from the trade and consumption of Dundee, can- | | |
| not be estimated at less than, - - | | L. 56,845 14 3½. |

In the last article the valuation is by no means too high, for the duty on soap alone will make up the greatest part of it; and the quantity made in Dundee does not supply one fourth of the demands of this single parish; so that it is not improbable, that a more just estimation would bring out a revenue greater than 60,000 l. Several of these sums are not, indeed, directly paid in Dundee, but they are equally real taxes upon its traders and inhabitants

habitants. With respect to those on ale and malt, it ought not to pass unobserved, that they have for a long time gradually decreased, and do not now yield a sum equal to its produce in 1745, when the parish did not contain above 6000 people. In that year the town's grant, of two pennies on the pint of ale, is said to have yielded 500 l. In 1757 it gave 423 l. 9 s. and its produce in 1791 was no more than 326 l. 6 s.; this difference is supposed to arise, in a great measure, from the various taxes; by which the malt liquor here has been so much debased, that it ceases to be the drink used in social meetings, or for refreshment from the fatigues of labour; and the people, deprived of their ancient, exhilarating, and wholesome beverage, have recourse to intoxicating and enervating spirituous liquors. The increased use of these is certainly a most alarming circumstance. They are sold in no less than 179 licensed houses; and the number of non-licensed ones, where they may be procured, is believed to be very great; whereas formerly the town was sufficiently, and perhaps, too well supplied by five or six.

Shipping, Exports, Imports, &c.—On the 5th of January 1792, there were 116 vessels, belonging to the port, navigated by 698 men, and measuring 8550½ tons. Of these, 34 were employed in the foreign, and 78 in the coasting trade, and 4 in the whale fishery. By Mr. Hunter, clerk of the customs, the author of this account has been favoured with the following comparative state of some of the principal articles of trade, in the years 1745 and 1791.

Total tonnage cleared outwards to foreign parts

| | In 1745. | | In 1791. |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-----|-------------|
| | 500 tons. | - | 1,279 tons. |
| Ditto cleared inwards from ditto, | 1280 do. | - | 10,520 do. |
| Inwards coast-wise, | no account, | - | 40,923 do. |
| Outwards, ditto, | 3000 do. | - - | 20,055 do. |

Goods

| | In 1745. | In 1791. |
|--|------------------|-------------------|
| Goods imported. Flax from Russia, | none - - | 2348 tons |
| Ditto from Holland, | - 74 tons | - 72 do. |
| Hemp, - - - | none - | - 299 do. |
| Tow or codillio, - - | none - | - 24 do. |
| Clover seed, - - | 100 lb. | - 51½ do. |
| Lintfeed, - - | 1406 hhds. | - 1036 hhds. |
| Fir timber, - - | 98 loads | - 1706 loads. |
| Fir balks, - - - | 100 | - 6300 |
| Deals, - - - | 10,500 - | 13,100 |
| Swedish iron, - | 50 tons | - 45 tons |
| Goods brought coast-wile. Cotton wool, | none - - | 35 do. |
| Tea from London, - | none - - | 47,743 lbs. |
| Porter, - - - | none - - | 1080 hhds. |
| Coals from the Forth, - | no account | - 28,021 tons |
| Sugar, in 1745, no account | | |
| but in 1756, - | - 62 tons | - 583½ do. |
| Goods sent coast-wile. Linen, brown | | |
| and white, - | 1,000,000 yards, | - 7,842,000 yards |
| Thread, white and coloured, | 12,544 lbs. | - 130,752 lbs. |
| Sail-cloth, - - | none - | - 280,000 yards |
| Cotton bagging, - - | none - | - 65,000 yards |
| Barley or big, - | 3393 quars. | - 23,917 yards |
| Wheat, - - - | 350 do. | - 3097 do. |

To these evidences of the thriving state of Dundee, and indeed of the whole neighbouring country, a variety of others might be added. In 1772, no more than 5 or 6 houses were to be seen between the west end of the royalty and Blacknefs; now upwards of 100 acres have been feued out, in the same district for building on, and upwards of 4000 people settled in it. About 1770, the feu duty, even for the lands nearest the town, did not exceed 3l. or 3l. 10 s. the acre, and this was supposed to be an advantageous price; now lots of 10 or 12 acres, of a much greater distance, are feued by Mr Hunter of Blacknefs, at 10l. and subfeued at 14l. the acre. Among the latest feus near the town, may be mentioned about 4 acres of land, chiefly under the management of the Kirk-session.

session. These, altogether, for many years past, were rented at 3 l. Last year they were leased at 40 l. the acre. In like manner in 1754, when there were only two churches on the establishment for public worship, the seat rents of that portion of them, which was the Town's, properly amounted to no more than 21 l. 4 s. 7 d. Now, when there are 7 established churches and chapels, the seat rents of the same portion amount to 175 l.

Besides the general advantages derived from the constitution of the British government, and the liberty and security its subjects enjoy, in all their lawful occupations, the particular cause of the increase and prosperity of Dundee is, undoubtedly, the bounty allowed by Parliament on all manufactured linens. By this the industry of the inhabitants was first set in motion, and encouraged; and their consequent prosperity, if it be not an evidence in favour of bounties in general, is, at least, a decisive one, that, in some cases, they are wise and judicious, and may be productive of the greatest benefit. Whether the linen manufacture could now be supported without the bounty, or whether the spirit of industry, which is now awakened, could be easily and profitably diverted into other channels, is a question on which it would be presumptuous in any private person to pronounce, and, perhaps, any experiment on the subject might be dangerous.

Prices of Provisions, Labour, &c.—The average prices of beef through the year, and without distinction of particular prices, is 4 s. 6 d. the stone, and this is also the general price of pork. Mutton, through the year, sells at from 4 d. to 5 d. the pound, and veal from 3 d. to 6 d. the weight is Dutch, consisting of 17 oz. 4 dr. per pound. Hens have risen to 15 d. each; chickens to 4 d. and 6 d. each; ducks to 1 s.; geese fell from 2 s. 6 d. to 3 s. each; turkies from 5 s. to 8 s.; pigeons at 4 d. the pair. The wages of a maid-servant are
from

from 3l. to 4l. yearly, and of a labouring man-servant from 7l. to 10l. Mason's daily wages are from 1s. 8d. to 2s.; those of house carpenters from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. and of day labourers 1s. at an average through the year.

Constitution, Privileges, &c.—The privileges of the town of Dundee, as a free and royal borough, are very ancient. A charter by King Robert Bruce, dated March 14th, in the 22d year of his reign, and proceeding upon a recognition of its privileges by a jury, mentions its being possessed of them in the time of his predecessor, William, who began to reign in 1165; and that they were as ample as those enjoyed by the town of Berwick, or by any borough in Scotland. This charter, the recognition on which it proceeds, with the designations of the jury, and the commission to Bernard, Abbot of Arbroath, and Mr. Alex. Fraser, Chancellor of Scotland, to preside as King's Lieutenants at the trial, whether now in existence or not, were in the possession of the Council not above 50 years ago; and the writer of this article has had an opportunity to see copies of them, with translations from the Latin, made by Mr. George Bruce, then rector of the grammar school. These rights appear also to have been confirmed and enlarged by many succeeding princes; particularly, by David Bruce, James II. James IV. Queen Mary, James VI. and Charles I. So uncommon are some of these, that by an edict of David Bruce, the villages of Coupar in Angus, Kettins, Kirriemuir, and Alyth, are prohibited from holding markets; and all persons discharged, under the highest penalties, from attending them, *as being within the liberties of Dundee*. Besides a confirmation of rights, Queen Mary's charter conveys to the town all the possessions of the Dominican friars, Minorites, Franciscans, and Gray Sisters, St. Clement's church, and its chaplainries; with all their revenues and lands, among which were a third part of the lands of Craigie; and, in particular

ticular, the *place and yards* belonging to the Grey Cordelier friars, for this special reason, "that the former burying ground " in St. Clements church-yard was in the *middyies* of the town, " and by burying in it, *pest* and other contagious sickness might " be *ingenerit*, and made to *persever*." All these former grants are also mentioned at length, and confirmed with additions, by the charter of James VI. dated at Holyroodhouse, January 16. 1701, and finally confirmed by Charles I. His charter is called *the great charter*, and bears, that all its articles were ratified in Parliament; Sept. 14. 1641.

Ample, however, as these privileges were, they appear to have been continually disputed by the Scrymgeours of Dundee, who, for signal services done under the illustrious WALLACE, had been by him created Constables of the castle, and continued to enjoy that hereditary dignity. The bounds between the powers of the Constable, and the privileges of the citizens, seem never to have been accurately determined, and consequently have become the subjects of frequent controversy, and occasions of dangerous riot. The Constable's powers especially appear, to have excited the greatest jealousies, when, as often happened, they were united to any of the offices of the magistracy. About the year 1604, Sir James Scrymgeour having made an attempt to render himself perpetual Provost, to change the election of the council into a mere nomination, and to subject all causes, civil and criminal, to his own authority, the greatest commotions were excited, and the peace of the town was for many years disturbed. The citizens, however, under the direction chiefly of the Fletcher family, at last prevailed; and the Scrymgeours lost all their influence in the council, and appear to have been expelled. Resentment for this affront seems to have increased the usual animosity, and it arose, at one time, to such extravagance, that the constable obtained a writ of *Law-burrows* against the coun-

sellors, and probably the whole community; nor were they discharged from its operation, till John Fotheringham of Powrie became security for them to the value of 20,000 merks. It was not till October 12. 1643, that these differences were settled, by an agreement, under the direction of Sir George Halyburton of Fotherance, and Sir John Leslie of Newton, Lords of Session. Even after this agreement, many of the acknowledged powers of the Constable were grievous and humiliating to the inhabitants; and these powers were never finally abolished, till the general abolition of all hereditary jurisdictions.

The constitution of government established in Dundee, or what is called the *Set of the Borough*, though apparently republican, is a species of oligarchy, not materially differing from those established, in general, over all the towns in Scotland. The Town Council is composed of 20 persons, including the magistrates, consisting of a provost, and four bailies. The annual election of these magistrates, and also of the dean of guild, and treasurer, is on the Thursday immediately previous to Michaelmas. But the council for the ensuing year is chiefly chosen on the preceding Tuesday, and all the measures fixed, which are generally decisive in the election of the officers just now mentioned. The whole 20 counsellors assemble on that day, and chuse 8 new counsellors, of whom 5 must be taken from the Guildry, or body of free merchants, and 3 from any separate three of the incorporated trades. No more new counsellors than 8 are necessary, because the 4 bailies must be members of the new council *ex officio*. With the addition of these 8 new members, they proceed to make up *leets*, or lists, for the offices of provost, bailies, dean of guild, and treasurer. The leet for the provost is limited to people, who, at any time formerly have been bailies; the leet for bailies to former counsellors; that for the Dean of Guild to present bailies; and the *leet* for the treasurer

fur is alone unlimited. When two persons have thus been *lected*, for every one of these seven offices, the powers of two particular old counsellors, as to any farther share in the election expire, and the number of old and new counsellors is reduced to 26. The *lects* are then transmitted to the convener of the 9 incorporated trades, to be by him laid before his deacons and their constituents. On the Thursday these 9 deacons assemble in the town-hall, along with the 26 old and new counsellors, and proceed to elect from the *lects*, by a majority of votes, the 5 magistrates, the dean of guild, and the treasurer. Thus, including the three remaining bailies, who continue in the council without election, a body of 18 new counsellors is formed for the ensuing year, and all the former offices expire. On the Tuesday following, these 18 chuse the remaining two.

From this account it must be evident, that the formation of the new council is almost entirely in the power of their predecessors, and that a society, thus constituted, is but in a very small degree dependent upon the community, whose interests are entrusted to their management. No appeal whatever is made to the Guildry, or great body of merchants, who may be considered as the *aristocracy* of the place; and the only controul the council can receive, in the election of their successors, is from the deacons of the incorporated trades, who may be considered as the representatives of the *people*. Unless, however, a considerable division, which seldom happens, should take place among the counsellors, and at the same time the deacons remain united, this controul must be of very little consequence. Without, therefore, a greater degree both of intelligence and public spirit, than falls to the common lot of humanity, such a society must be under strong inducements to consider itself as a fraternity distinct from the community; and having different interests, it will certainly be suspected of entertaining such persuasions, and its conduct, e-

specially when uncontrollable, as at present, by any superior tribunal, will always be viewed with jealousy, and is in danger of becoming, in some degree, arbitrary and interested.

It would, however, be unjust not to acknowledge to the honour of the magistrates and council of Dundee, that, in many instances, they have exerted themselves with laudable zeal and success, in promoting the public good. The building and endowing new churches, the paving and lighting streets, the opening new ones, especially a new passage to the shore, the building new piers, and the general improvement of the harbour, are works which they have executed within these 10 or 12 years, and which are both of great importance, and entitle them to no small share of praise. Many equally important, no doubt, yet remain to be done, and some may have been neglected; but to these, it is to be hoped, according as their revenues may enable them, they will not fail to turn their attention.

The revenues of the town, not appropriated to particular purposes, may amount annually to 2200 l. If to these we add the revenues of the Guildry, amounting to 80 l.; of the hospital for decayed burghers, amounting to 300 l.; the fund arising from some lands, but chiefly from seat rents, for building and repairing the churches, computed at 588 l.; the interest of money mortgaged for burfaries and similar purposes, amounting to 60 l.; and if we also include 400 l. levied from poor's rates; the members of council will be found to have under their management an annual sum not much short of 4000 l.

While there was a Parliament in Scotland, Dundee was represented in it by one member or commissioner. It is now only one of 5 boroughs, who, all together, send but one member to the British Parliament; the other four are Perth, Forfar, St. Andrews, and Coupar in Fife. Every one of the
councils

councils in their boroughs chuses a *delegate*, and the 5 delegates elect their representative.

Ecclesiastical State, &c.—It is impossible to ascertain, with accuracy, the ecclesiastical state of the parish, previous to the reformation. The number of religious houses was certainly greater, than has appeared in any published accounts of ecclesiastical antiquities; but the ancient writings being in general lost, and the buildings converted into private property, and variously demolished and rebuilt, they are now incapable of being traced. It is probable, that the church dedicated to St. Clement, converted into a *Telbooth*, or town-house at the reformation, and situated where the present town-house stands, had been the parish church; and certainly, the area behind it, now used for a meal-market, and the lanes, by which it is surrounded, composed the common burying ground. But, since the reformation, the great one built by David Earl of Huntingdon, (which, when entire, was one of the largest and most magnificent in the kingdom,) has been the parish church. Its form was that of a crucifix, with a very noble square tower, or steeple, at the west end, through which was the great entry. The height of the tower, which is still entire, is 156 feet; its area, within the walls, 27 feet, and without 40. The length of the nave was 120 feet, its height 63, its breadth 40, and the breadth of each of its ailes 30. The length of the choir is 95 feet, its height 54, its breadth 29, and the breadth of each of its ailes 14½. The length of the cross part of the building, which had no ailes, is 174 feet, and its breadth 44. According to tradition, this church was destroyed by Edward I.; and probably the nave was never afterwards repaired. What had been repaired was also again destroyed in Edward VI's time, by the English, then in possession of Broughty Castle; and the destruction, either at the first or second time, appears to have been accomplished by fire.

fire. The cross part of the building, lay uncovered till 1588, when it was again fitted up for use, by means of general taxations laid on the inhabitants, by the authority of the town council, and by voluntary contributions. One of the principal contributors was captain Henry Lyell of Blacknefs, who, in an inscription, (on which are his arms, the same with those of Lovell,) assumes the merit of the whole.

At the reformation, only two ministers seem to have been established in the parish, one called *the Parson*, and the other *the Vicar*. The Sorymscours of Dudhope, constables of the castle, were patrons of the first charge, and the patronage of the last belonged to the community. As the care of the parish was too laborious for two ministers, Mr. James Robertson the vicar, on obtaining in 1608, a fixed stipend of 600 merks, resigned to the patrons his vicarage; and, about 1609, they appointed in his room an additional minister, Mr. William Wedderburn, who, in 1613, received also a fixed stipend, equal to that of Mr. Robertson, and gave up to the council the more casual and insufficient produce of the vicarage. Though these transactions do not appear to have been authorised, by any decree of the Lords of Erections, and no consent appears to have been either asked or obtained from the patron of the first charge, the patronage of both the others was considered as the undoubted property of the community. The parish was thus supplied with three ministers, one drawing his living from the parsonage teinds, and the other two from the various funds within the borough; and they have always officiated as colleagues in the two places of worship, the choir and the south part of the cross building in the ancient church. As the inhabitants were found too numerous for being accommodated in two churches, the magistrates, in the year 1759, fitted up the north part of the cross building as a chapel of ease; and the town continuing to increase, they built, in 1789, a large and handsome new church, on the situation of
the

the ancient nave ; and, by a decree of the Lords of Session, both were erected into churches on the establishment, for two additional stipendiary ministers, who officiate as colleagues in both by turns. As the town-council had, after the revolution, acquired the patronage of the first charge by purchase, they are now considered as undoubted patrons of all the five.

The stipends of the two stipendiary ministers, on the old establishment, are each 140 l. The first minister's stipend, including his glebe, and an old allowance for house rent, exceeds those of his colleagues a few pounds. No part of it affects the teinds of the parish, except one chaldcr of meal, and another of barley, and 66 l. 13 s. 4 d. in money. With respect to all the three, it is to be observed, that 20 l. of each stipend is an addition made by the council, only three years ago, upon account of the increased expence of living, and continues no longer than the lives of each incumbent. The salaries of the two stipendiary ministers, on the new establishment, are no greater than 120 l. each.

Besides these 5 established ministers, two others, ordained and in the communion of the church of Scotland, officiate in two Chapels of Ease. One of these chapels was built in 1772, by the joint exertions of the Kirk-Session, and the 9 incorporated and united trades, chiefly by means of donations and charitable contributions, and continues under the management of these societies. It is as large almost as any of the other churches, and its minister receives a salary of 100 l. The other was built in 1789, by a separate congregation of the *Relief* persuasion, now, on their own application, received, along with their minister, into the church. He receives a stipend of 90 l. and the chapel may contain 800 or 900 people. A third chapel also, under the direction of the church of Scotland, belongs to a congregation of Highlanders, who

have lately emigrated from their native country. Their clergyman officiates in the Gaelic language, is yet unordained, and they have not been able to afford him any higher salary than 30 l. All these churches and chapels are considered as in one and the same parish, and all their ministers and elders compose only one Kirk-session.

The dissenting congregations, with the numbers of persons, belonging only to this parish, of which they are in part composed, including their children and all occasional attendants from the parish, according to the accounts by their own ministers or principal managers, are as follows. 1. One meeting, of the *Scottish Episcopal* form, consists of a clergyman, and 370 persons. The clergyman is titular *Bishop* of one of the districts into which the people of his persuasion are distributed, 2. One *Independent* meeting, of the sect denominated *Glassites*, from the late *Mr. Glas*, has several pastors or preachers, and 1160 persons. The preachers are distinguished in the congregation by the names of *Bishop* and *Elders*. 3. One meeting of the *English Episcopal* form, consists of one clergyman and 420 persons. 4. One meeting of *Sacceders*, of the *Burgher* form, has one clergyman, and 784 persons. 5. One of the *Antiburgher* sect has one clergyman, and 650 persons. Besides these, there are also other separate societies, of *Roman Catholics*, *Anabaptists*, *Bereans*, now said to be split into three sects, *Methodists*, *Unitarians*, and *Independents* of another form. The attendants of all these together, cannot exceed 400, so that the whole number of dissenters, including children, in this parish, amounts to 3784. The principal Independent congregation affords a decisive proof of the importance of early marriages to population. It was formed by *Mr. Glas*, about the year 1732, and at that time consisted of no more than 71 members, men and women. It has now collected 1160, and the increase is much more the effect of an indispensable

indispensible law of the society, enjoining *early* marriages, than of any new accessions of proselytes. Besides the importance of the law to population, it appears, from this experiment, that it is also of the utmost consequence to prevent licentiousness, and to promote early industry. The usual objections of its tendency to produce a debilitated race, and to increase the number of the poor, appear to be in a great measure frivolous; for, in consequence of the regulations of the society, very few of their poor have hitherto been burdensome to others, and their young people do not seem to be inferior in health or vigour, to the ordinary natives of the town.

Charitable Funds and Distributions.—The funds, and annual distributions of charity in Dundee, are very considerable, and merit a more complete detail, than the writer of this article is enabled to give. Those committed to the management of the Kirk-Session are the principal funds; and, for the year 1791, were as follows:

| | | |
|--|-----------|--------------|
| Interest of money mortgaged, and rents of land acquired by | | |
| such money, | - - - - - | L. 95 4 6½ |
| Dues allowed by law, or custom for marriages, | - - - - - | 55 13 0 |
| Fines also allowed by law from delinquents, | - - - - - | 1 15 0 |
| Sale of the effects of pensioners after their deaths, | - - - - - | 35 8 3 |
| Collections at the doors of the 4 churches, and the Chapel | | |
| of Ease in the Cowgate, | - - - - - | L. 640 13 8½ |
| In all, | - - - - - | L. 828 14 6½ |
| | | ===== |

From this sum, the distributions and other expenditure were as follows:

| | | |
|---|-----------|-------------|
| To 243 stated pensioners, of whom 196 were enrolled for life, | - - - - - | L. 592 0 0 |
| In occasional charities through the year, and to the same pensioners on three extraordinary occasions, to wit, after the communions in the spring and autumn, and at the beginning of the year, | - - - - - | 175 13 7 |
| Carried over, | | L. 706 13 7 |

| | | |
|---|---------------|-------------|
| | Brought over, | L. 706 13 7 |
| For nursing orphans, and children deserted by worthless parents, chiefly natural children, | - - - | 25 8 0 |
| For books and education to poor children, salaries to teachers of schools in the suburbs, and stipends due by law to the ministers, from the kirk-sessions lands, | - - | 33 1 6 |
| To 7 church officers or headles, | - - - | L. 51 2 8 |
| In all, | - - - - - | L. 816 5 9 |
| So that in the year 1791, the surplus was, | - - - | 12 8 9½ |

In the year 1792, instead of a balance saved, a debt of 81 l. 5 s. 7½ d., had been contracted, though the distributions were 85 l. 12 s. 6 d. less. But on the intimation of this to the congregations, their collections were immediately and cheerfully increased, so as to produce an annual rise of 160 l. 17 s. 0½ d. The constant weekly allowance to pensioners, as may appear from the above statement, is no greater than 10 d. and a small fraction, and may perhaps be thought too scanty. But it ought to be considered, that it is an average allowance; that the greatest part of the pensioners are capable of earning something by their work; that the principal use of stated charities is merely to supply the deficiencies of such earning; and that, when they become so liberal as to render work unnecessary, or when living by charity ceases to be dishonourable, they are utterly destructive of prudence, foresight, sobriety and economy.

Other funds, principally or wholly under the management of the kirk-session are,

| | | |
|---|-----------|-------------|
| Rents of lands, and sums mortified by Mr. Gilbert Guthrie, for educating poor boys, | - - - - | L. 140 0 0 |
| Each boy receives yearly 3 l. 6 s. 8 d. for 3 years, and as much when they end. | | |
| Similar rents by——— for the same purpose, | - - | 61 0 0 |
| Other rents for poor widows, and distributed among 21 of them, | - - - - - | 53 14 0 |
| | | <hr/> |
| | | L. 254 14 0 |

So that last year the whole funds of charity, under the management of the Kirk-Session, amounted to 1083 l. 8 s. 6½ d. These funds, particularly Guthrie's mortification, will, in a few years, be considerably increased. To this, the principal part of the 4 acres of land, mentioned as feued at 40 l. the acre, belongs. It is to be observed, that the management and disposal of all the sessions funds costs not a single farthing of expence.

The annual distributions, from funds under the management of the Town-Council, or levied by their authority, are as follows :

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--------|---|---|
| From the hospital for decayed burghers, | - | - | L. 130 | 0 | 0 |
| From the Guildry, | - | - | 46 | 0 | 0 |
| Poors rates levied within the royalty, | - | - | 400 | 0 | 0 |

This last sum, after paying the expence of levying and distribution, was last year divided among 120 pensioners. It began to be levied only a few years ago, for the avowed purpose of suppressing beggars. It has not produced this effect, and, notwithstanding, has risen from 100 l. to 400 l. Though this tax compels the covetous, and those who rarely attend public worship, to take some part in the maintenance of the poor, and on this account, has the appearance of justice, it is liable to many objections. It tends to impair voluntary charity ; it falls as heavily on the most charitable and liberal, as on the covetous and licentious ; by being confined within the royalty, it takes no hold on the opulent persons in the country part of the parish, the proprietors of the land especially, who profit more by the industry of Dundee, than any other set of men ; at the pleasure of any magistracy, it may be extended beyond all just and moderate limits ; and, being like their other funds, under their uncontrollable disposal, may be perverted into an engine of borough politics, and

become in future, a grievous nuisance. At present, however, it has produced no real or perceptible evils ; particularly it has not, as in England, become extravagant and destructive to economy, nor rendered it in any degree more difficult for strangers to obtain a settlement.

Other distributions are,

| | |
|---|--------------|
| From the fraternity of seamen, | L. 390 13 6 |
| From the general fund of the 9 incorporated trades, | 56 14 0 |
| From the particular funds of the same trades, | 167 19 0 |
| From the united and pendicle trades, supposed, | 70 0 0 |
| From several public and private societies, supposed, | 30 0 0 |
| From the Scottish Episcopal meeting, | 12 0 0 |
| ——— English ditto, | 16 0 0 |
| ——— Burgher Seceding ditto, supposed, | 25 0 0 |
| ——— Antiburgher ditto, ditto, | 18 0 0 |
| ——— Independent meeting, who, from principle, neither give nor keep any account of their charities, supposed, | 300 0 0 |
| ——— All the other religious societies, supposed, | 40 0 0 |
| Besides the charities now enumerated, there are also bursaries at the university and grammar school, in the gift of the council, amounting to, | 60 0 0 |
| Mr. Henderson's charity school for poor children, | 25 0 0 |
| A dispensary, on which was expended last year, | 140 0 0 |
| Mr. Stephen's mortification for boys at School and college, in the gift of the Provost, the minister of the Murraygate district, Mr. Dempster of Dunnichen, and Mr. Hunter of Balfkelly, from which there is at present paid, | 79 0 0 |
| Dr. Brown's mortification, now in the management of his immediate trustees, whom failing, it devolves on the Kirk-Session, | 128 0 0 |
| Miss Graham's mortification towards the education of an orphan girl, | 2 5 0 |
| | <hr/> |
| | L. 1560 11 6 |
| So that altogether, the money bestowed last year, in various charities, amounted to, | L. 2377 5 3 |

The

The Dispensary was established in 1782. It is entirely supported by voluntary contributions, and has been of the greatest use. The president and principal benefactor is Lord Douglas. But the contributions of the remaining heritors, (a very few excepted,) either to this or to any other charitable institutions of the place, notwithstanding all the advantages they derive from it, are hardly worth the mentioning. To the Dispensary, it is also now proposed to add an Infirmary; and the liberal and numerous subscriptions already obtained, leave little reason to doubt, that the purpose will soon be carried into execution.

General character.—The people of Dundee have been for a long time entitled to the reputation of industry, regularity and economy; and, notwithstanding the increase of their wealth and numbers, a just claim to this reputation still continues. As their wealth has been almost entirely the result of great attention and industry, it is preserved by the same virtues, and they are still strangers to extravagant and ruinous luxuries. One instance of economy and ancient simplicity of manners, will, in some parts of Britain, hardly meet with credit; that, though we have many burghers, worth from 5000 l. to 40,000 l. there are not in the whole town, more than 9 male household servants; and of these, not one belongs to any person, who can, with propriety, be said to be engaged in trade. This economy does by no means exclude cheerful and frequent social intercourse, or abridge their real comforts and recreations. It does not even banish a liberal hospitality; and instead of lessening their humanity and compassion for the miserable, the people of Dundee are inferior to none in generous exertions and contributions, either for the relief of particular distresses and misfortunes, or for the establishment and maintenance of public beneficent institutions.

The

The rise of the wages of labour, has not hitherto produced any considerable bad effects, even upon the common people; but, on the contrary, has been generally employed to increase their lawful comforts, to feed and clothe them better, and to encourage them in the more early establishment of families; and the proportion they bestow, in all charitable contributions, at least equals, if not exceeds, that of their superiors in opulence. Yet it would be inconsistent with truth, not to mention, that prosperity has introduced among some, a degree of licentiousness unknown in former times; and one alarming symptom of it ought not to be concealed, that, notwithstanding the great accessions made, since the year 1788, to the number of inhabitants, the number of annual marriages has hardly received the smallest addition. The people of Dundee may be also characterised from their religious habits; and no where in Scotland is public worship better, or perhaps so well attended. Their numerous sects indicate their zeal and attachment to religious principles, and perhaps an excess of attention to religious controversies; but these give very little disturbance to the general harmony, and instead of increasing bigotry they seem to weaken it. Though some sects, not only on their first rise but even at present, cannot be acquitted of harsh and uncharitable opinions, concerning those who do not adopt their sentiments, mutual toleration evidently prevails; and each begins to suspect, that the dictates of their own party have no better claim to *infallibility*, than those of others.

As to the general size of the inhabitants, it is certainly inferior to that of the people in the south and west parts of Scotland, and even of their neighbours in various parts of Fife: and though the linen manufacture be the great source of their opulence and increase, its influence does not seem so favourable, as might be wished to health, or friendly to the production of a vigorous and hardy race.

Remarkable

Remarkable Persons and Families.—Among remarkable and distinguished persons may be mentioned, 1. ALEXANDER SCRYMSEOUR, one of WALLACE's heroic companions, the person to whom, after he had recovered the town from the English, he committed the reduction of the castle, and whom he put in possession of the hereditary dignity of constable: 2. Sir JOHN SCRYMSEOUR one of his descendants, who became Viscount of Dudhope, and adhering to Charles I. lost his life in the battle of Marston Muir: 3. His son who followed the fortunes of Charles II, accompanied him with a regiment to the battle of Worcester, and returning with him at the restoration, was created Earl of Dundee. Besides their dignity of constables, the chiefs of this family were hereditary standard-bearers of Scotland. They continue to be represented by the Scrymseours of Birkhill, now Wedderburns of Wedderburn, who, on the death of the Earl of Dundee, without immediate heirs, were unjustly spoiled of their honours and inheritances. 4. ROBERT PITILLOCK, commonly pronounced *Tillock*, and now spelled *Parallo*. In the wars of Charles VII. of France, for the recovery of his kingdom from the English, particularly in their final expulsion from Gascony, he acquired the most signal honours; and was the first captain of the famous Scottish guard, then formed, and to whose fidelity the French kings for several centuries committed their personal protection. 5. JAMES HALYBURTON, designed on his tomb-stone, uncle to Halyburton of Pitcurr. To this person, his country is indebted, as one of the most early and able promoters of the reformation. By his influence chiefly, Dundee became the first town in Scotland, where the reformed religion was openly professed. He headed the Dundee troops, who went to the defence of Perth, against the vengeance threatened by Mary the regent. By his able conduct in encamping and conducting the Protestant forces, assembled at Coupar, the attempt

tempt of the popish troops, under the French general D' Oyfel, to reduce St. Andrews and seize the chief leaders of the reformation, was defeated; and by him and his brother Alexander, at the head of their fellow citizens, one of the principal attacks against the town of Perth was carried on, and the popish garrison dislodged. He was provost of Dundee for 33 years. From gratitude and respect to his memory, his funerals were defrayed at the public expence; and, what was then reckoned a mark of peculiar honour, his grave was lined on the sides with mason-work, and arched over, and a monument erected to his memory. Dundee has also produced some persons of considerable eminence for science. It is believed, that JOHN MAR, the mutual friend of the great Baron Napier, inventor of Logarithms, and of Mr. Edward Briggs, and who brought about, and was present on their first interview at Merchiston, was one of its native citizens. He appears to have been distinguished by James VI. before his succession to the English crown, and to have gone up with him to England in the royal household. To another citizen, JAMES MAR, probably grandson of the former, we owe a chart and soundings of the whole north sea, so accurate, that, though laid down about the beginning of the present century, it has hitherto received few improvements of importance. By him, in particular, the bank, which bears his name, was discovered and delineated; and his native town is peculiarly indebted to him for his accurate draught and soundings of the entrance into Tay, and the whole passage up the river. The family of these eminent persons still subsists. In other branches of literature, we count the well known HECTOR BOECK the historian, who was Principal of the King's College in Aberdeen, and one of the chief restorers of learning in his time; and, in the *litteræ humaniores*, Dr. KINLOCK, physician to James VI. Mr. GLEG, rector of the grammar school, and Mr. GOLDMAN, merchant.

Some

Some Latin poems of the three last are to be found in the collection of the *Poetae Scotigenæ*, which, for taste as poems, and elegance as Latin compositions, are inferior to no modern productions.

One of the most eminent citizens of Dundee, in the end of the last, and beginning of the present century, was its provost, GEORGE YEAMAN of Murie. This gentleman represented the town in the last Scottish or Union Parliament, and the district of boroughs, to which the town now belongs, in the first and second British parliaments; and to him his native country, especially this part of it, is more indebted, than to any representative ever sent from Scotland. By his good sense and address principally, the projects, of taxing hides *by tale*, and barley for malting *by measure*, (than which none could have been more injurious to a country, where the former are so diminutive in size, and the latter so comparatively mean in quality,) were defeated; and, when the Frith of Forth was exempted from the general duty laid on all coals carried by sea, (a duty which the poor, in countries destitute of coal, have severely felt and bitterly complained of,) he procured, that the Tay should be included within the bounds of the Forth, and that the legal limits of the mouth of this river should be the Red Head in Angus, and St. Abb's Head in Berwickshire. Dundee has also had the honour of being represented in many parliaments, by GEORGE DEMPSTER, Esq. of Dunichen, another native citizen. Of this gentleman's merits from his country, it would be improper in his life time to speak, and they cannot be supposed better known to the writer of the present memoir, than to all his countrymen.

Among the FAMILIES, who have had their original in Dundee, may be mentioned the truly honourable one of the FLETCHERS of Salton, distinguished for giving birth to the celebrat-

ed and enlightened patriot, **ANDREW FLETCHER**. They were settled in Dundee as merchants, in the 16th century, and possessed of the lands of Inverpeffer near Arbroath; distinguishing themselves, during the course of the 17th century, as magistrates of Dundee, and like their descendants, in vindicating its liberties, against the arbitrary claims and encroachments of the family of Dudhope; and from these ancestors, it is probable, that he imbibed some portion of his patriotic spirit. He sprung from a second son of this Dundee family, and his descendants are now its representatives, the elder branch having failed some years ago, by the death of its last male, Major **HENRY FLETCHER** of the marines. Another branch of it is the family of Balinshee, which produced the two brothers, Sir **ROBERT** and Colonel **FLETCHER**, lately distinguished in the East Indies.

The present Lord **LOUGHBOROUGH**, chief justice of the common pleas in England, is also descended of a family long respectable in Dundee. The chiefs of it were successively town clerks for near 200 years, and frequently the town's commissioners to the parliament. In this situation they acquired the lands of Kingennie and Blackness, and were honoured with the title of baronets. This title is now carried by Sir **JOHN WEDDERBURN** of Ballendean, a native of Dundee, and male representative of the family.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—The principal advantages of Dundee are,—the noble river on which it is situated, opening to the inhabitants, a ready communication, not only with the London market, but with those of the principal and most opulent countries of Europe; and also giving them a considerable extent of inland navigation :—The fertile countries in its neighbourhood, the Carse of Gowrie especially, full of thriving, rich, and intelligent farmers; whose industry, if it was first set in motion by the opulence of towns, and their increas-
ing

ing demand for country produce, now amply returns the favour, by equal demands on the towns for their merchandise and manufactures :—The industry, sobriety, and frugality of its inhabitants, which virtues, having been confirmed by long habit, will probably continue to be reputable for a long period to come. In addition to these, it must draw the most signal benefits from the excellent turnpike roads lately constructed, and continuing to be extended through all the principal districts of Angus, and the neighbouring parts of Perthshire. For these the town is entirely indebted to the exertions of a few country gentlemen ; and though its inhabitants have had no share, either in the trouble or the risk of the undertaking, they will be probably the principal sharers in the profits ; for their markets instead of being often shut up, and becoming inaccessible, will now be open at all seasons of the year, for the heaviest goods ; and the people in distant parts will no longer be under the necessity of repairing to the less abundant markets of inferior towns. But if Dundee enjoys these advantages, it is not without its disadvantages and defects. Among these the following seem to be the most remarkable :—The lanes, and even several streets are uncommonly narrow, and the dwellings of the inhabitants too close upon one another ;—the greatest part of the families living by half dozens, as formerly in Edinburgh, under the same roof, with common stairs, without back yards or courts, and many possessing only single rooms :—The late additional suburbs have been built without any general plan, and without the least regard to health, elegance or cleanliness ; though no situation perhaps in the world, presented better opportunities to provide for all the three :—There is an almost total want of public walks and open places, to which sedentary or delicate people may resort, and children be carried for air and exercise. Several have been, or are about to be converted to private purposes : one, which is the best and most important, is generally inaccessible, through the badness

of the lane that leads to it ; and, the high roads being destitute of foot paths, those who have the greatest need of air, find themselves, for a great part of the year, confined to their houses, at least they cannot get beyond the streets ; and these circumstances are the more vexatious, that the inhabitants of the royalty are taxed annually about 130 l. for *road-money*, but find themselves and their magistrates totally excluded, in consequence of a late law, from any direction in the application of it :—The principal burying place is too small, in proportion to the parish. The expence of interment in it is considered by the poorer people as too great. Two of the most ancient burying grounds in the parish are uninclosed, so that those, who, for cheapness, have recourse to them, suffer the mortification of seeing the remains of their friends treated with indignity ; and, from the use of one of these, the poor have, of late years, been totally excluded.—But the greatest of all the disadvantages of Dundee, is the almost total want of public institutions, even for the most simple and necessary parts of education ; nor, excepting a reputable grammar school, is there an opportunity for parents to have their children instructed in any branch of human literature ; and this defect is not supplied by any tolerable public library.

Other disadvantages, at least causes of discontent, arise from the nature of several public laws and institutions. Complaints of this kind are expressed by the trading people, who have suffered loss in consequence of the law of *perpetual entails*, or who are exposed to suffer it. They think, that property of every kind ought to be liable for the debts it has given opportunity to contract ; that the contrary practice is unjust, and the laws which authorise it, nothing different from *biconces to a species of swindling*. Besides the astonishing quantity of land in the neighbouring parts of the country, brought, of late, under this kind of settlement, it is believed,

that

that the proportion of this parish, subjected to it, is not much less than 3000 l. a-year.—Some complaints are also made on the subject of the late *corn law*, as tending to diminish the freedom of trade in this important article, and to render it more precarious. The merchant alleges, that, while his ship is at sea, he is not sure whether the port, to which, from confidence in the law, he ordered his corn, may not, by proclamation be shut up: and certainly it has been attended with some considerable inconveniencies; for, during the last spring, seed-corn, even from England, though often of the utmost importance to this country, and various articles of household provision, which the country does not yet supply, were, by its operation, laid under an absolute *prohibition*, or a duty which, with equal efficacy, prevented importation. The intercourse for corn was not at that time permitted, even with the county of Fife, from which we are separated only by the river; and at the present time, (November the 12th 1792,) though the harvest has been bad, and the price of grain considerably raised, two vessels with grain and meal, one of which lies in the harbour, and the other is daily expected, will not be permitted to unload their cargoes. Besides these complaints, though the people here are happily free from the *coal duty*, to which their more northern neighbours are subjected, it is only from the duty on Scottish coal; and the present sudden advance in the price of this article, from 4 s. to upwards of 6 s. for 800 weight, must, while they are not relieved by importations from England, be severely felt by all the poor.—With respect to the discontents, which prevail in Dundee, about the state and mode of the representation of the people in parliament, and that they are governed by a magistracy in a great measure independent on them, these are not peculiar to this place, but common to it with all the towns in Scotland.

One disadvantage of Dundee arises from its situation, and hardly admits of a proper remedy. It is the distance at which it is placed from any large fresh water river, with falls sufficient for moving the various machinery, now so important to manufactures. The nearest falls of this description are on Dighty, and in the parish of Monymeth; but they are too distant for deriving full advantage from the population of Dundee.

Miscellaneous Observations.—In the year 1782, the corns were much damaged by excessive rains, the harvest was not completed till towards the end of November, and a considerable dearth followed. The inhabitants, however, exerted, on this occasion, their usual generosity; and at one time, with a view of alleviating the distress of the poor, the sum of 200*l.* was raised in the space of two days. But the intention of raising this sum was much more laudable, than the application of it. It was employed, together with the produce of other funds, in keeping the market prices of grain below the common rates of the country, a benefit in which the rich, and they who had no need, were partakers equally with the poor; and the consequence was, that they who had grain to sell, carried it to other markets, which were free from such timid and impertinent regulations, and where they received their prices immediately from the buyers, without having the trouble of applying, for any part of them, to trustees of public money. Accordingly, the supply of the Dundee market, as might have been easily foreseen, was, through the whole season, scanty and difficult; and depended entirely on the influence the magistrates could exert with country gentlemen, and the more opulent class of farmers. Even the supply of many families, who were not under the necessity of going daily to market, became a business of constant and vexatious solicitation. The
people

people of Aberdeen, where the dearth was greater, are said to have acted much more wisely, by raising the market price of grain, and to have advertised large premiums to every importer of it; and we are told, the consequence was, that their market was filled as well as in the ordinary times of plenty; and the prices, of necessity, soon fell to their proper level. A small quantity of the provision made by government, for the poor of the northern parts of this island, was also at this time allotted to Dundee; and the Kirk-Session received some unsolicited donations, amounting to 60 l. for the poor under their inspection. In these, the share which Lord Douglas, according to his usual humanity, contributed, was no less than 50 l.

In the two former centuries, the prices of various necessities of life, as meal, malt, ale, leather, shoes, &c. were regulated by the magistrates and council; and in making, altering, and executing their regulations, they created much vexation to the dealers, and much useless trouble to themselves. The price of no necessary of life is now regulated in this manner, except of bread made from wheat flour; and neither does the attention of the magistrate to this article, seem to be of much greater use, than it was to the others, where it has long been laid aside; nor, though it should be supposed of use, does the method of regulation adopted here seem to be advantageous. On the contrary, it is perhaps the very reverse of what it ought to be; for the price of bread, concerning which all are judges, remains fixed, and the weight, which few have opportunity to examine, or even sometimes to know, is variable. It is probable, that were this business freed from the influence of corporation laws, it might be as safely as any other committed to the management of those engaged in it; and, that by their separate interests and competition, it would be equally guarded from combination and abuse. Indeed, no corporation laws whatever seem to be entitled to much respect; all

of

of them tend, more or less, to create monopolies against the public; nor do they always promote the good of the very societies they were meant to favour. The prices of admission to the exercise of any business in Dundee, though not so extravagant as in other places, particularly in Aberdeen, are, notwithstanding, taxes frequently found to be inconvenient. A merchant pays to the Guildry for freedom to himself and his posterity, 8 l. 6 s. 8 d. and half this sum for freedom to himself only; an apprentice to a merchant pays 1 l.; a handicraftsman 8 l. 6 s. 8 d. for admission into any of the 9 incorporated trades; and, except at the times appropriated to public markets, no stranger can, without a considerable tax, expose his goods to sale for a single day.—Of persons belonging to Dundee, who have been condemned, banished their country for life, or executed, upon account of felonies, the writer of this account cannot, after much inquiry, find more than *three* during the whole course of the present century. Since *Bridewells*, or penitentiary houses, have been established in Edinburgh and Glasgow, Dundee has been much more pestered than formerly, with vagrants and persons of doubtful character, and *swindling* and petty thefts are more frequent. This will probably produce a *Bridewell* in Dundee. An establishment of this kind is certainly necessary, and the common prisons, and present inflictions of justice, are by no means sufficient to supply its place. With respect to our prisons, though among the best in Scotland, they are destitute of any court or area where the prisoners may enjoy the open air. This, however, is at present, the less necessary, as the laws of the country are supposed inhumanely, to exclude debtors from the privilege of breathing the same air with others; and, it is but very seldom, that felons suffer long confinement, in the prisons of places not visited by the Circuit Courts of Justiciary.

In this town, there are several public buildings; but, excepting

cepting the ancient church and steeple formerly described, the spire of the chapel in the Cowgate, and the town-house, none of them seems, as a piece of architecture, to be entitled to much attention. The last is certainly a building of uncommon taste and elegance. It was planned by the elder Adams, and does him honour.

Among the regulations unfavourable to the freedom of the market, and consequently to the interests of the inhabitants, those might have been mentioned which relate to the trade in coals. There are only 4 births, or places at which vessels loaded with them are permitted to deliver their cargoes; and, if these places are occupied, all other vessels, however great the demand may be, are excluded, and must continue shut up, unless the cargo should be sold in wholesale to one person, or unless the master, if he means to retail, will consent to sell below the current price. The first occupiers, accordingly, must reduce their prices, or see their rivals carry off all their customers. The intention of this regulation was, no doubt, to prevent any unfair rise of prices from combinations among the masters. But its real effect is to increase the risk and expence of the trade, and to induce those who are engaged in it to have recourse to other ports, rather than sell at a diminished profit, or at a loss. Perhaps there is no branch of business, wherein those intermediate dealers, often branded in law by the names of *foreballers* and *regretters*, would be more necessary, or where the encouragement of such would tend more to the general benefit. When the importer must also turn retailer, the time in which he should be fetching a new cargo is lost, and he brings fewer coals in any given period to market; and he and all his ships company must be paid for their time, instead of one regretter.

In the foregoing account, there are, no doubt, many articles omitted; particularly the *brewing* and *ship-building* manufac-

tures. In the first, a numerous company is now engaged, but the chief part of the business is in the hands of particular brewers, denominated by the legal term of victuallers. Of these, there are 66 masters, who employ 63 journeymen and apprentices. They make their own malt, and brew it into that kind of drink called *Two-penny*, which, till debased in consequence of multiplied taxes, was long the favourite liquor of all ranks of people in Dundee. It was a liquor neither much boiled nor fermented, and always used within two months after being made.—Shipbuilding is said to be executed here with great advantage and ingenuity. In it two masters are employed, with 31 journeymen and apprentices; and 6 are employed by two boat-builders.

NUMBER XII.

PARISH OF CROMDALE.

(Counties of Moray and Inverness.—Presbytery of Abernethy—Synod of Moray.)

By the Rev. Mr. LEWIS GRANT.

Origin of the Name.

CROMDALE is derived from the Gaelic language, *Crom* signifying crooked, and *dale* a meadow ; which is literally explained by the river Spey, making a semi-circle, or half moon, in the place where the manse and church are built. Cromdale has been rendered pretty famous all over Scotland, by the song composed in consequence of a battle fought there, in the year 1690, betwixt the adherents of King William, commanded by Colonel Livingston, and the supporters of the house of Stuart, headed by Clavers, commonly called Lord Viscount Dundee ; and wherein King William's party prevailed, killing and taking prisoners great numbers of the enemy. This action is said to have put a stop to any farther bloodshed on that score.

Extent, Soil and Surface.—The extent of it is very considerable, being fully 13 Scotch miles in length, and generally 3 or 4 miles broad, in the old inhabited country; but on account of the late improvements, which are very numerous, the breadth, in some parts, is no less than from 6 to 7 miles. The soil is generally dry and thin, with the exception of some flats or low haughs, close by the river Spey, which, in point of natural fertility, are equal to those near the sea side, which is 20 miles distant from every part of this parish. An hundredth part of the lands of Cromdale is not arable, or even green, so as to render it fit for pasture to black cattle or horses. The hills and level grounds are generally covered with black heath, having scarce any mixture of grass connected with it. Though these circumstances quickly discover themselves to the stranger and traveller, from the unpleasant aspect the country at first sight exhibits, yet these prejudices are soon removed, when a person adverts to the utility and consequence of places, formerly, in a great measure, thought barren and useless, now rendered productive of the greatest source of national wealth, by the flocks of sheep, which every where cover the face of the country; and which are now triple the number they were a few years ago, as well as proportionally increased in point of value. The plantations of fir, which are numerous, and are thriving fast, will soon have a good effect in setting off the country to very great advantage.

Situation, Climate and Diseases.—The parish lies within the counties of Inverness and Moray, in almost an equal proportion, some parts of it, lying next to Inverness, being of the shire of Moray, and some of those lands, nearest to Forres and Elgin, belonging to the county of Inverness. This seeming confusion must have originated from the interest the differ-

ent proprietors, (who held the lands of this country, when shires were first formed,) had in the principal towns fixed upon as head burghs. Cromdale is generally allowed to be extremely wholesome. Few epidemical diseases happen in it. There are many instances of longevity as far as 90, and there are not a few, even beyond that age. Dr. Buchan, author of the Family Physician, had occasion to be in this part of the country some years ago, when he very judiciously remarked, that every man's house was built upon a rock, meaning, that every man had a dry gravelly stance whereon to found his house; which, the Doctor observed, is more conducive to health, than all the benefits that result from medicine. Inoculation universally takes place with great success. All prejudices on the score of *predestination*, are now happily removed.

River and Fish.—The river Spey is the only one which runs through this parish. From its rapidity every where, it is allowed, that more water flows from it, than any other river in the kingdom. It is distinguished for vast floats of wood, which cover its banks, and are daily carried down by its waters to the sea. Sir James Grant's woods of Abernethy and Duthel, with those of Rothiemurchus, lie contiguous to the Spey, and cover a boundless tract of country. The Spey was once famous for salmon, all over that extent of country, through which it passes; but, by a late decision of the house of Peers, an exclusive right was given to the Duke of Gordon, by means of *Cruives*, and all other human devices, to monopolize this article at the source of the river; which of late years has been effected with such success, that few salmon are to be got a short way up the country; and yet the gentlemen of property, hurt by this decision, allow the wood
belonging

belonging to this family, which often proves injurious to their arable ground, to pass without the least molestation.

Animals.—The white hare is frequently got in this parish during winter. It is as white as snow, and the ears are tipped with black. Roes, black cocks, and heath hens are very numerous. Horses used for work, were, some years ago, generally bred in the country; but now, owing to the flocks of sheep, which consume the growth of the common pasture, they are generally purchased, and at a very advanced price. Farmers, on this account, have reduced their number, using only two in place of four, carrying on a deal of their labour with oxen, which they employ in the draught as well as in the plough. Black cattle are very numerous: they amount to 4000 or 5000 within the parish, while sheep may be reckoned from 10,000 to 12,000. Goats were once numerous, but now the parish could scarcely muster 200 of them. The wool of our sheep is depreciated on account of the mixture of black hairs, which is ascribed to the attempts to improve the breed in point of size. The quality of it far exceeds that of Badenoch wool, which is ascribed to the sheep being fed upon pure heath; and the connoisseurs in mutton attribute an uncommon fine flavour to sheep fed in this manner.

Rent and Proprietors.—The real rent of the parish, of which Sir James Grant of Grant is the sole proprietor and patron, is considerably beyond 2000 l. a-year. CASTLE GRANT, the seat of his family, is within its bounds. His men of business affirm, that they are in possession of writings, which ascertain their residence there for upwards of 500 years, without any failure in the male line all that time; and though they have had the property of the whole parish, for about 200 years; yet prior to this, it was divided among different heritors.

tors. The price of the acre of arable land, when feued, is generally from 8 l. to 12 l. Sterling, without reckoning any thing for grafs or common pasturage.

Cultivation and Produce.—The union of farms is frequent, One man now occupies as much land, as was, 40 years ago, possessed by 5 or 6 families. The principal crops consist of oats, barley and rye. The last has, of late years, been in no high estimation, from the effect it has in *scourging* the ground. Wheat is sown here occasionally in small quantities. Turnips and potatoes succeed to a wish. Potatoes, in a short time, will constitute the one half of the people's food. Sown grafs is every where to be met with, and very luxuriant crops arise from it. The lime quarries are opened by the proprietor. The country abounds with them. The boll of lime, which measures 24 Scotch pints each firloft, is sold at 8 d. per boll. It is necessary to make this distinction, as the Banffshire boll is less by a third. A lint mill is erected by the proprietor, and most people sow flax with success. A bleach-field is just established, which bids fair to be of great advantage to the country.

Population.—There is not a single sectary of any denomination in the parish; the whole people being of the established church. The number of souls belonging to the parish, may be stated at 3000, but many of them go occasionally south, during the summer season, to work at roads, and other public works, which renders the amount fluctuating. The return to Dr. Webster, in 1755, was 3063 souls. The births, at an average, for the years 1735, 1736 and 1737, were 80 each year: for the 3 last years, they did not exceed 60. —The marriages are from 10 to 12 in the year. The deaths,

deaths, from the circumstance, that there are 3 different churchyards in the parish, can by no means be ascertained.

Church, School and Poor.—The living betwixt stipend and element money is 75 l. Sterling. There is no vicarial rent. There are two glebes in the parish, which might be let, as the value of both, at 7 l. Sterling a-year. The manse was built 70 years ago, and has been different times repaired since. The offices were lately rebuilt, and are in good order. The church is plaistered, being finished off with great taste. The number of begging poor exceeds 20, but these go seldom from the bounds of this country. Some times 30, or even 40, receive a part of the public funds. Many of these are reduced householders, who would starve rather than beg. When any person is reduced by accident, or some severe distemper, to poverty, the method practised for their relief, is by a general collection; and in justice to the people, it must be said, that their liberality, on all such occasions, far exceeds what might be expected. There are no other funds besides the public collections, which, at an average amount from 10 l. to 15 l. Sterling a-year. Much depends on the price of cattle, and the sale of victual, which is more or less according to the season. When the family of Grant reside at Castle Grant, which, for some time past, has been pretty much the case, the collection has thereby been much enlarged, as they constantly attend public worship, in all seasons of the year. Their beneficence makes every one delicate in giving them trouble, as every object of distress, within their reach, experiences their charity.

Language.—The common people speak the Gaelic tongue, but the English is the prevailing language, which they pronounce with great propriety, and with very little of the brogue.

In all the parishes southward from this, the English alone is spoken; but here, both languages are preached daily. In a few years hence, the English will be the only language, as the people ardently wish their children to read the scriptures; and for this purpose, often, in the winter, 4 or 5 schools are employed at once in the parish at their own expence.

School.—The parochial school is taught at Cromdale. The salary is 20*s* merks, paid by the heritors. The emoluments of the schoolmaster, as session-clerk, with dues of baptisms, &c. amount to 3*l*. or 4*l*. Sterling, besides school fees.

Village.—Grantown is a village erected under the influence of the Grant family, it being little more than 20 years, since the place, where it stands, was a poor rugged piece of heath. It now contains from 300 to 400 inhabitants, some of whom are as good tradesmen as any in the kingdom. Shoemakers, taylors, weavers of wool, linen, and stockings, blacksmiths, wrights, masons, and 12 merchants keep regular shops in it. There are 2 established schools. One of the teachers has 30*l*. Sterling of salary, exclusive of the emoluments arising from his office; 10*l*. of which he has by way of gratuity from Sir James Grant; 10*l*. as the interest of mortgaged money, from the presbytery of the bounds; and 10*l*. from the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge; with an excellent dwelling house at Sir James Grant's expence. The boys are taught reading, writing, accounts, Latin, and French. They amount to from 50 to 80, and they excel in reading the English language grammatically. There is another school established in the town, which is taught by a woman. Young children to the number of 30 or 40 constantly attend, and are not only initiated, by her in the first principles of letters, but

the young girls receive, under her, a foundation in the various branches of female education. A brewery was established in this place immediately at the first building of it, on purpose to keep the people from drinking spiritous liquors, and it continues to give satisfaction. Two bakers carry on the business of their profession with success. Butcher meat, beef, mutton, pork, &c. generally sell at from 2½ d. to 3 d. per pound, fowls at 6 d. and 7 d. each, butter at 10 s. and 12 s. the stone, and cheese according to its quality. There are two or three public houses in it, with an elegant town-house, covering a prison, agreeable to the jurisdiction act, under the sanction of the sheriff of the bounds. Though it has been built for some years, yet few have been confined within its walls, which is a high proof of the good behaviour of the people. Grantown is, on all hands, surrounded with most excellent mosses, affording peats of the best quality; the ashes of which, when mixed with lime, make good manure for potatoes, greens, and cabbages. All kinds of roots are to be met with here, in vast quantities, and to as great perfection, as in any part of the kingdom; which, from its former barren state, is an incontestible proof, how far the country at large is capable of improvement.

Roads, Wages, Fuel, &c.—The statute work goes on very punctually, without the smallest murmur. Stone bridges are erected over almost every rivulet, either by the proprietor or the county; and of course, the roads are in the highest order. The wages of servants have increased, of late years, at a most amazing rate. Six pounds Sterling are commonly given to capable men servants in the year, exclusive of maintenance. Women have generally 40 s. Sterling of wages in the year. Cotters, or married servants are seldom employed, as the bulk of
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the people manage their farms with the help of their children. The high wages of men servants we attribute to the floating of wood, which finds business for all our men, from 16 to 60 years of age, who, during the warm season, receive from 1 s. to 1 s. 2 d. for each days labour. Fuel is every where to be had, on easy terms, and of the best quality, through the whole of this country.

Taverns.—Many public houses, by the general resolution of the counties concerned, have of late been suppressed; and there are at present only 4, besides those mentioned in Grantown. Two of these are on the turnpike road, for the accommodation of travellers,

Antiquities.—The only antiquity in the parish, is the *Fortalix* at Lochindorb, where a thick wall of mason work, (20 feet high even at this period, and supposed to have been much higher,) surrounds an acre of land within the Loch, with watch towers at every corner, all entire. The entrance to this place, is at a gate built of freestone, which has a grandeur in it, that is easier felt than expressed. Several vestiges of houses are found within the walls, besides those of a church, which, without difficulty, can still be traced in the ruins. Great rafts, or planks of oak, by the beating of the waters against the old walls, occasionally make their appearance; which confirms an opinion entertained of this place, that it had been a national business, originally built upon an artificial island. Tradition says, and some credit is due to the report, that the particular account of this building was lost in the days of King Edward I. of England.

Character of the People.—They are very industrious, obliging, and remarkable for nothing so much as neatness of dress

at kirk and market, agreeable to their rank in life. The women have long been distinguished among their neighbours for making webs, particularly those of the woollen kind ; and for great cleanliness in their houses, which were formerly built of *feal* or turf, and lined with wood. But the practice now, with all farmers in easy circumstances, is to have their houses built of stone and lime, with glass windows, &c. and their barns and kiln of the same materials,

NUMBER XIII.

PARISH OF TOUGH.

(County and Synod of Aberdeen.—Prebostery of Alford.)

By Mr. ALEXANDER URQUHART.

Name, Situation, and Extent.

THERE is no tradition, nor any record, that this parish has had any other name than its present one. It is pretty evident, that it is of Gaelic extraction. Those skill'd in that language say, that it signifies *Northward*, or a place with a northern exposure, which is the more probable, as there is a range of hills, which run from the south east to the south west corner of the parish, and which screen it from the south and south west. It is said, that Towie, the name of a neighbouring parish, has the same signification, for which the same reason may, with much propriety, be assigned. Both names are pronounced in the Gaelic, with somewhat of a guttural sound, as if they were written *Toua*. The names of many of the farm towns are purely Gaelic. The parish is about 22 miles distant from Aberdeen. Its length from S. to N. is about 5 miles, and its greatest breadth about 3. Its form would be almost triangular, did not a considerable part
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of the parish of Lochell intersect it, so as to divide it into two parts, though rather unequal.

Surface, Soil, Climate and Diseases.—The general appearance of this district, can neither be said to be flat nor hilly. There are in it, several rising grounds, but they are mostly arable. The ridge of hills, which shelter it from the east, south, and south west, naturally occasion a pretty large bottom to the north, where there is no intervening hill between it and Keig. The soil is in general of a light nature, in many places very shallow, and abounding with small stones. It is, however, in some places, particularly in the same grounds, very deep, mixed with moss and extremely fertile. The air is, for the most part, dry and healthy. Several mineral springs have been discovered, which all seem to run upon iron ore. They have not been tried in any distemper. The diseases which are most frequent, in this and the neighbouring parishes, are of the acute kind. Many of the labouring people have been afflicted with pleurifies; but if the patients are let blood in proper time, they soon recover.

Produce, Cattle and Cultivation.—The annual crops are oats and barley. In ordinary years, the parish does more than supply itself with provisions. The farmers send a good deal of meal to the Aberdeen market. The oats are generally sown between the middle of March and middle of April, and the crop is generally reaped between the 1st of September and the end of October. There were lately found to be 625 black cattle, 1471 sheep, and 113 horses in this parish. The tenants pay considerable attention to the rearing of black cattle; and this attention has been sufficiently rewarded, by the high prices which they have brought for several years past. There are 37 ploughs in the parish; but many of these are rather insignificant,

nificant, being formed by a junction, of two or three small crofters, who make up a yoke among them. There are 52 carts, but many of these are also very small. There are not above 12 householders, that can properly be denominated *farmers*. Many of the farms are now divided into small partitions, which are here called crofts, on each of which there is a house and family. It is now so expensive to stock a considerable farm, that settling upon crofts, is become much more common than formerly. Within these 5 or 6 years, two farms have been very much improved by a rotation of crops. One of them, the greatest part of which is in the hands of the proprietor, has been improved by lime, which he brings from Aberdeen. About a fifth part of that farm, was, some time ago, let on lease to an industrious tenant, who pursues his landlord's plan. For this part, he pays more than the old rent of the whole farm; and yet, it is said, that he is no loser by the bargain. The people now begin to be more sensible of the advantages resulting from raising turnips; and one may observe a small spot of them in the corner of almost every croftsmen's field. The late Mr. Byres of Tonley, was the first who sowed turnips in the fields in this district. He was also the first who had a cart in it about 40 years ago. His son, the present proprietor, has of late very much improved his estate. The barren muirs, and dry soil, are employed in raising plantations of fir, which are also intermixed with almost every other species of wood common in this part of the country. Some of these plantations are about 10 years old, and are in a most thriving condition. They will not only add very much to the value of the estate, but also to the beauty of the neighbourhood. There are in these plantations, three natural dens, through each of which runs a small rivulet. Through these the firs, larix, birk, and oak, make a most delightful appearance. One of these dens by nature forms a
beautiful

beautiful bason, which the proprietor has filled with water. There are, in this bason, 3 or 4 rising grounds, which the water does not cover. These are planted with various kinds of wood and shrubbery. From many points of view, this forms a very pleasing sheet of water. The proprietor intends to put a boat upon it, so as occasionally to afford a pleasing source of amusement, and a healthy exercise. That gentleman, since his return from abroad, has begun to put lime, in considerable quantities on his arable ground, and his schemes of improvement are prosecuted with vigour, spirit and success.

Heritors, Rent, &c.—There are 6 heritors, none of whom has resided for some years past, Mr. Byres only excepted. For the last 30 years, he lived chiefly at Rome, where he was well known, and deservedly esteemed, for his taste, learning, and integrity. There has been no change of property these 50 years, except a very small estate, which has been once or twice sold within that period. *Kincraigie* one of the principal estates, was disposed of some years ago by a judicial sale; but the proprietor having thrown in many objections to the sale, there is no saying how, or *when* it will be finally settled. The valued rent of the parish is 1670 l. 14 s. Scotch. The real rent does not much exceed 600 l. Sterling.

Population.—It is thought that the population has increased within these 20 years, though there is a small decrease since 1755, when the return to Dr. Webster amounted to 570 souls. The only cause to which the late increase can be attributed, is, the subdivision of farms, which has augmented the number of settlers. The whole population, about 12 months ago, amounted to 560. Of these, there were,—

Males,

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|--------------------|---|-----|----------------------------|---|---|
| Males, | - | 255 | Master wrights, | - | 3 |
| Females, | - | 305 | Apprentices, ditto, | - | 3 |
| Under 10, | - | 118 | Blacksmith, | - | 1 |
| Between 10 and 20, | - | 84 | Master taylors, | - | 3 |
| — 20 and 50, | - | 225 | Taylor apprentice, | - | 1 |
| — 50 and 70, | - | 101 | Master weavers, | - | 3 |
| — above 70, | - | 30 | Weaver apprentices, | - | 3 |
| — above 80, | - | 2 | Merchants or shop keepers, | - | 3 |

This district has afforded some instances of longevity. Mr. Durno, a proprietor in this parish, died about 20 years ago, in the 106th year of his age. One of the name of M'Gregor, died in the Kirk Town, aged 105. As no regular register of deaths has been kept, the annual average cannot be ascertained with that exactness which could be wished for; but, it is supposed, it will not exceed 9, during the last ten years. The annual average of births is about 15, and of marriages 5. The only dissenters in this district are Seceders, of the Burgher persuasion, of whom there are 127, including all the children of those whose parents are Seceders*.

Church and School.—The minister's stipend is 4 chalders of victual, one third bear, and two thirds meal, and 44 l. 14 s. with a manse and glebe of six acres. Sir William Forbes of
VOL. VIII. L 1 Craigievar

* It may not here be improper to give some account of their origin in this parish. In the year 1760, the minister was desirous to introduce the new method of singing, which he found acceptable to many of his parishioners. It was, however, violently opposed by others. The minister, notwithstanding, persisted in his design; and this occasioned a schism among his hearers. The rage of the opponents was furious. They soon began to think of revenging themselves by leaving the kirk. When the party was sufficiently formed, they built a church, and a house for a minister, who was soon procured. What is remarkable, is, that these very Seceders have since adopted the new mode of singing, which was the sole source of the original rupture. Their present minister is the second, who has held that office. He is a very social good sort of a man, and discovers a considerable degree of moderation.

Craigievar is patron, and titular of the teinds. The church was built in 1737, and the manse in 1752. A new set of offices was built in 1790, with a slate roof, the first that has been so well finished in the county of Aberdeen. The heritors, however, in several other parishes, being convinced, that this is by far the most durable, and consequently, upon the whole, the cheapest roof, there is little doubt, when repairs are found necessary, but that this mode will be adopted. The schoolmaster's salary is 100 merks. He has also 1 l. 7 s. Sterling, paid him as Session-Clerk. For some years past, the number of scholars has been very small. The fees for teaching are 2 s. 6 d. for Latin, 2 s. for arithmetic, 1 s. 6 d. for reading and writing, and 1 s. for reading.

Poor.—The provision for the poor is small. The session fund, however, which is about 50 l., is rather increasing. The annual collections for their relief, after deducting the clerk's salary, will be about 6 l. Sterling. There are 7 at present upon the poor's roll; but all of them are able to do something for their own support. Besides the quarterly distributions to the poor, occasional supplies are also given to those who fall into accidental distress. Yearly collections are made in all the parishes of this and the neighbouring counties, for the support of the *Aberdeen Infirmary*.

Inoculation.—The prejudices of the people in this neighbourhood, are strongly bent against inoculation for the small pox. Some months ago, when the present incumbent had a child inoculated, one man, who has a numerous young family, by a second wife, (his children of the first marriage having suffered extremely by the small pox,) was desirous that his young family should undergo that operation. They were accordingly inoculated, and got through remarkably

ably well; but so violent were the prejudices of the people, that, it is said, some of them declared, if the inoculated children had died, they would have considered it as a just dispensation of Providence. It is to be hoped, however, that a few more successful instances, will have a tendency to remove so unfortunate an idea. Above all, if the more discerning heads of families were attentively to read the Statistical Survey, it might be of considerable service to them, in that as well as in many other respects.

Servants, Wages, &c.—There are only 25 male, and 19 female servants in this parish. It will no doubt appear strange, that this number is so small. Many of the householders have sons and daughters, who assist at their work; and these are not reckoned among the number of hired servants. Many of the householders are crofters, and they need no servants. The wages of a ploughman are about 5 l. Sterling, and the wages of a female servant about 2 l. Many servants are engaged only during the weeks of the harvest, and in that time, a man servant will sometimes receive 2 l. and a woman 1 l.; though, if the weather be favourable, the harvest will be finished in the course of 5 weeks. The day's wages of a labouring man, are from 8 d. to 1 s. without victuals; a taylor's wages 6 d. or 7 d. and his victuals. The wages of a common labourer, when married, are scarcely sufficient to enable him to bring up a family. About 20 years ago, a dozen of eggs sold for 2 penny; a hen for 4 d. a pound of butter (28 oz.) at 4 d.; a pound of beef 2 d. All these articles now give double the old price.

Roads.—The roads in this district are in a much better state, than they have been, in any former period. But there is still room for improvement in this respect. Some of the roads lie

pretty low, and, being made on a clay bottom, they become exceeding deep and heavy in the winter: nothing but raising them very high, and spreading plenty of gravel upon them, will make them tolerable in that season. The state of the roads, has lately employed the attention of the gentlemen of property in this and the neighbouring parishes; and, they seem to be thoroughly convinced, that, without good roads, the improvement of their estates must proceed very slowly. A plan and estimate of a road, (without a pull in it,) from this place to Aberdeen, was, some weeks ago, given in to a meeting of landed gentlemen. The plan and estimate have met with their approbation, and those most interested in this business, have subscribed 50 per cent of their valued rent, so that it is to be hoped, this plan will soon be executed. The statute labour is generally commuted.

Fuel, &c.—The fuel principally used in this district, is peats and turf, which are in great plenty, of a good quality, and easily procured; the most remote parts being only about 1½ miles, and many not half a mile from the mofs. This may be reckoned one of the principal advantages of the parish. Another is, that those, who live at the foot of the hills already mentioned, may keep a number of sheep, which need no shepherd; and this is a considerable saving to the farmer.

Antiquities.—Little can be said, with certainty, under the article of Antiquities. There was a shilling of Queen Elizabeth found some years ago in a mofs, at no great distance from the place where the battle of Alford was fought, between Bailly and Montrose. It is said, Bailly's men fled through this mofs, and that some of them were buried in it. It has, perhaps, been there ever since. Some time ago, a human

man body, and a sword, were found near the same spot. Hard by this moss, there is a spot of ground, called the *bleedy faulds*, where it is probable the slaughter has been very considerable in the chase. Near the same place, on the brow of a hill, there is a large stone standing perpendicular, about $9\frac{1}{2}$ feet round, and $12\frac{1}{2}$ high, which evidently appears to have been brought there by human industry. Beneath it, tradition says, that one of Macbeth's sons is interred. However this may be, there are pretty evident marks of Macbeth having been in this part of the country. There are the remains of an encampment, near the Kirk of Lumphannan, where, it is said, he and his army defended themselves for a considerable time. Near this camp, the country people shew where he fell, and the cairn under which he is buried. There are two or three large cairns which have never been opened; and there are several Druidical Temples in this district. One on a hill about 2 miles from the church, still retains the name of *the Old Kirk of Tough*.

Disadvantages.—Some vestiges of the feudal system are still discernible in this district. Several of the tenants are bound to perform certain services to the landlord. It ought, however to be remarked, that this disadvantage, or rather hardship, is by no means peculiar to the parish, but common to all in the neighbourhood; but such is the moderation of the proprietors here, that these services are not often exacted, and never with rigour. But the principal local disadvantage, which the parish labours under, is its distance from lime, none being nearer than Aberdeen. Limestone has indeed been discovered in the parish, but when fire was applied, it all run into large lumps. It is to be hoped, that, by future trials,—by digging deeper in the rock, it may yet turn out to good account.

count. It would be an invaluable source of improvement to this district, particularly if coals were got duty free.

Character, &c.—The people are in general very industrious, frugal, humane, and obliging. Their morals are thought to be stricter now than 40 or 50 years ago. Even the Seceders have lost a great deal of that fiery, intemperate zeal, which so strongly marked their character, about the time of their first settlement in this parish. There is no instance, in the memory of man, of any individual being banished or capitally convicted. The general size of the people is about 5 feet 8 inches. There are some individuals about six feet.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The principal manufacture, in this and the neighbouring parishes, is the knitting of stockings. In this the females are constantly employed, except during the weeks of harvest. In the year 1782 and 1783, great scarcity prevailed, and had not a considerable quantity of pease-meal been procured from abroad, and sent to this country from Aberdeen, many of the inhabitants must have been in danger of perishing. It ought, however, to be remarked, that the women did so much extra work, by knitting stockings, and the men by building dykes, that they earned double the sum they usually gain in the same time; so that the loss they sustained was not great, and the scarcity was but little felt.—There are two or three tippling houses in the parish, which have an evident tendency to corrupt the morals of the people. A good inn, for the accommodation of travellers, is much wanted; and, it is presumed, a proper inn-keeper would meet with good encouragement, as the public road, from Aberdeen to Strathdon and the adjacent country, passes through this parish.

No. XIV.

TOWN AND PARISH OF STIRLING.

(County and Presbytery of Stirling.—Synod of Perth and Stirling.)

By the Rev. Mr. JAMES SOMMERVILLE, one of the Ministers of that Town.

Origin of the Name.

THE town and parish of Stirling have the same name. In all records of any antiquity, it is written *Stryveline*, or *Stryveling*; and it is conjectured to have derived this name from the Scotch word *stryve*, because of the frequent contentions about the possession of it, which arose among the different clans, in the days of ancient feud and barbarism. This, however, is mere conjecture, as all disquisitions about the origin of names generally are. Buchanan and other Latin authors uniformly call it *Sterlinum*. The town's ancient seal has, on one side, a crucifix erected on a bridge, with this inscription, *Hic armis Bruti, Scoti stant hac cruce tuti*. On the reverse is a fortalice, surrounded with trees, with the inscription, *Continet hoc nemus et castrum Strivilense*. The town has another seal, which contains the arms, viz. A Wolf upon a rock, inscribed *Oppidum Sterlini*.

Extent,

Extent, &c.—The parish of Stirling is chiefly confined to the town. The whole land in it does not exceed 200 acres. The castle, with the constabulary, by which is meant a small portion of land, formerly annexed to the office of constable, are not reckoned in the parish of Stirling. As little are the Royal Domains, or King's park. They are exempted from all parochial assessment, and are in the parish only *quoad sacra*, and that only since the chaplain ceased to officiate, or reside in the castle. The landward part of the parish lies between the town and the Forth. It extends along the south side of the river, from Kildean, about a mile above the bridge of Stirling, to the east of the town, with some parks on the south of it. These lands, on an average, are rented at 50 s. per acre. The small village, called *the Abbey*, which occupies the place where the celebrated Abbey of Cambuskenneth once stood, and which is situated in a northern link of the Forth, east from Stirling, has hitherto, along with the barony of Cambuskenneth, in which it is situated, been reckoned part of the parish of Stirling. What gave rise to this arrangement is not known, unless it was, that the servants belonging to the Abbey worshipped in Stirling; or that the Canons, Monks or Friars of that monastery, performed divine service, in the church of Stirling, and formed a kind of connexion which continued to subsist after the reformation. One thing is certain, that it has subsisted; for there is actually a seat in the church of Stirling, allotted for the inhabitants of that village; and it appears, that an elder from it has sat in the session of Stirling, almost uniformly since the year 1559. The barony of Cambuskenneth pays a part of the stipend of the first minister of Stirling; but it is subject to poor's rates in the parish of Logie, and to the jurisdiction of the sheriff of Clackmannan. The commissary of Stirling also exercises his jurisdiction over it, as a part of the parish of Stirling; and the

the commissary of Dumblane exercises his jurisdiction, as lying within the parish of Logie.

Climate and Longevity.—The situation of Stirling is also reckoned very healthy. The height of the rock, on which it stands, above the level of the flat carle grounds, no doubt contributes much to this effect. Epidemical diseases are scarcely known. - At this very time there are four or five persons in Stirling above 90. The *Croup*, or *Cynanche Trachealis**, seems to be most fatal to children; the asthma and palsy to old age.

Burgh of Stirling.—Stirling is allowed to be a place of considerable antiquity. Buchanan mentions it again and again, so early as the 9th century, but gives no description of it: and to throw any light upon this subject; from the town's charters, is impossible. The most ancient of these records is granted by King Alexander I. and is dated at Kincardine, the 18th of August, in the 12th year of his reign; whereas there is reason to believe, that Stirling had been incorporated long before, as the charter of Alexander is not a charter of erection, but only confers some additional privileges on the burghers and freemen. Alexander the I. who granted this charter, ascended the throne anno 1107, and reigned 17 years. It therefore bears date in 1120. About the middle of the 12th century, it would appear to have become a place of royal residence. David I. kept his court at it, probably that he might be near to the Abbey of Cambuskenneth, which he founded anno 1147, and on which he lavished many marks of his favour. He brought the canons of that monastery from

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* This is a disease of the *Glottis*, *Larynx*, or upper part of the *Trachea*, attended with hoarseness, and a peculiar whizzing sound in inspiration, and a shrill ringing sound in speaking and coughing, as if the noise came from a broken tube. It seldom attacks children before they are weaned, or after 12 years of age.

the neighbourhood of Arras, in the county of Artois. In ancient charters, they subscribe themselves *Abbates de Styruling*. Alexander Miln, Abbot of that place, was the first President of the Court of Session, instituted by James V. anno 1532. The Abbacy now belongs to Cowan's Hospital in Stirling, having been purchased from the predecessors of Mr. Erskine of Aloa, on whom the property of these lands was conferred at the reformation. It is probable, that Stirling grew to its present size, very soon after it became the temporary residence of royalty; and, from the most accurate attention to its situation and circumstances, it may be concluded to have undergone very little change, either in size, or in the number of its inhabitants, for the last 600 years, till very lately. But to give an account of the antiquities of Stirling, however desirable, would only be to wander into a labyrinth of conjecture. Mr. Nimmo, in his history of Stirlingshire, has said all upon this subject, that can be stated with any degree of certainty. There is no regular annal, or register, respecting it, previous to the middle of the 15th century; and the only one that reaches back to that period, or near it, is the register of sasines, commencing in 1473. The council records commence in 1597.

Situation and Improvements.—The situation of Stirling is romantic. Raised on a rock in the middle of an extensive plain, in the near neighbourhood of a winding river, which seems unwilling to part from it; and, having the full view of finely cultivated fields, bounded on the south by rising woodlands, and on the north by the Ochil hills, it is scarcely possible to imagine any landscape more beautiful or picturesque. Added to its situation, which is singularly beautiful, it has of late received many improvements, exceedingly conducive both to the comfort and conveniency of the inhabitants. Water has been brought from a considerable distance to supply the town.

Commodious

Commodious school houses, in airy situations, and a spacious market place, have been erected within these few years. A noble walk along the summit of the rock, at the very root of the south wall, from the one end of the town to the other, shaded from the sun by a shelving thicket of fine thriving trees, has been lately finished at a considerable expence. This walk, which is perhaps the finest thing of the kind, that any place can boast of, was begun, anno 1723, by a Mr. Edmonstoun of Cambus-Wallace, and finished only in the year 1791, under the patronage of the present magistrates. Much however, as has been done to improve the beauty of Stirling, a great deal still remains to be done. The castle and Gowan Hills, which admit of great improvement, and which could no way hurt the fortrefs, though improved to the utmost, remain like all other government property, as barren, rugged, and neglected, as if the stern Genius of the north had said, *Let them never be touched by the hand of Art or Industry.*

From an attentive observation of the grounds on which Stirling stands, and from the best traditional accounts, Stirling seems to have been neither much increased nor diminished, for several centuries. The court raised it to its present size. When that was withdrawn, necessity stimulated to industry and kept it up. It was erected into a royal burgh, probably as far back as the middle of the 9th century. It holds the fifth place in the rank of royal burghs, and was one of the *Curia quatuor burgorum*, a court which gave birth to the present *Convention of Burghs*. The jealous and contracted spirit of *incorporation*, ever tenacious of ancient customs, and hostile to all novelty and invention, nay, expulsive of the enterprising stranger, has kept the inhabitants of Stirling trudging on in the routine of their great-great-grandfathers, as it must ever do those of all places, where improvement is not forced, by peculiarly advantageous local circumstances.

Set or Constitution of the Burgh.—The town-council consists of 21 members, 14 of whom are merchants, and 7 tradesmen, viz. a provost, 4 bailies, a dean of guild, a treasurer, 7 merchant counsellors, and 7 deacons of trade. Besides the ordinary jurisdiction in civil causes, which is common to the magistrates of all royal boroughs, and to the sheriffs of counties, the magistrates of this town have also an extensive criminal jurisdiction, conferred upon them by their charters, equal to the power of Sheriffs, within their territories. Prior to the year 1781, the old council elected the new one, 11 members at least of the old council being changed yearly. Six of the 7 trades sent a leet of 4, and the bakers a leet of 8 to the council, who had power to put a negative upon the one half of each leet. Each incorporation chose one out of the remainder, as their representative in council. The burgh having been disfranchised in 1775, by a sentence of the House of Peers, confirming the decree of the Court of Session, his Majesty was pleased, in 1781, to restore it to its privileges of election, by his poll warrant, in which he made the following alterations on the set. The guildry company of merchants, annually elect 4 members of the new council. The trades choose their 7 representatives, without sending leets: only the old council previously declares 4 of the old deacons incapable of being re-elected for the ensuing year. And there are still at least eleven of the old council changed yearly. By the new set, as well as the old, the provost, bailies, treasurer and convener, cannot be continued in their offices more than 2 years at a time. The dean of guild being now chosen by the company of merchants, is necessarily changed yearly. The trades incorporated by royal charter are, the bakers, weavers, hammersmen, skimmers, butchers, tailors and shoemakers. The maltmen, barbers, and other professions, have no representative in council, nor any royal charter, but only acts of erec-
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tion from the town-council, about the year 1720, or betwixt 1720 and 1730. Each person, upon entering, pays 2 l. 2 s. 6 d. to the funds of the burgh, besides what he pays to those of his own society or incorporation.

Peculiar Law.—There is a remarkable bye-law of this community, made in 1695, which the members of council must annually take an oath to observe. By it they bind themselves, to take no lease of any part of the public property, under their management, nor to purchase any part of it; neither to receive any gratification out of the public funds, under pretence of a reward for their trouble, in going about the affairs of the borough, or of the hospitals founded in it. By this bye-law, also, a *board of auditors* is elected annually, for inspecting the public accounts, consisting of 2 members chosen by the merchants at large, and 2 chosen in like manner by the seven royal incorporations,

Castle, &c.—None can tell, when the castle was built, any more than the town. Even the bridge, which is doubtless a work of much later date, has no memorial of the date of its erection. The whole town stands upon a rock, stretching from N. E. to S. W.; and, with the castle, situated on the utmost prominence of the rock, towards the north, very much resembles the ridge on which the high street and castle of Edinburgh are situated. Several of the houses in Stirling, now standing, are doubtless of very ancient date. In one, which was lately taken down, on the south side of the broad street, there was a stone marked IIII.—*Mar's Work*, a large and awkward edifice, was begun by the Earl of that name, anno 1570, while he was regent of Scotland, but never finished. The tenement, called *Argyll's Lodging*, was built partly in the year 1637, by Alexander, Viscount of Stirling.

Churches,

Churches, &c.—The west church and tower were, it is said, erected in the time of Alexander III, or at least not later than the year 1494, when probably James V. caused it to be built, for the accommodation of some Franciscan Friars, whom he had brought into this country, and settled in a convent, almost contiguous to this church. It has no date upon it, and though of very beautiful architecture, it is now so much under ground, and so low roofed, that no reparation can ever render it a comfortable place of worship. Indeed, it has been very little employed for that purpose since the reformation, unless during the few years that Mr. Ebenezer Erskine preached in it, when the people of Stirling chose to have a third minister. The east church, the present place of worship, was erected by Cardinal Beaton, and is a more splendid and magnificent fabric, but is very little accommodated to the purposes of Presbyterian worship. It would need to be almost totally altered and repaired, to render it either elegant or convenient. The absurd pretence of its area being private property, held on no better security, than the gift or conveyance of the kirk-session, (some of the possessors indeed found upon grants from the town-council, for some trifling consideration) is the great hindrance to this most necessary reparation. The area of the churches ought never to be the property of any but the community at large. Common sense, as well as religion, dictates that the poor should have an opportunity of hearing the gospel as well as the rich.

Ecclesiastical History.—The charge of Stirling was made collegiate in the year 1651. Previous to that period, we find a Mr. Robert Montgomery, a Mr. Patrick Simpson, and a Mr. Henry Guthrie ministers of Stirling. Montgomery was deposed by the assembly, for a simoniacal compact with the Duke of Lennox, about the bishoprick of Glasgow. Mr. Henry Guthrie was afterwards bishop of Dunkeld, and wrote "*Me-*
moirs

“moirs of Scottish affairs, from 1627 to the death of Charles I.” It appears from the council records, that this Mr. Guthrie, after his removal from Stirling, resided at Kilspindie. There he probably wrote his memoirs. In 1661, after the death of James Guthrie, the council sent several deputations to invite him back to his charge in Stirling; but he declined it, on account of bad health. Mr. Nimmo mentions another Mr. Henry Guthrie, who was executed in the beginning of the reign of Charles II. on account of his activity in opposing the measures of the court. But this certainly was the celebrated Mr. James, who was beheaded in the year 1661, and who was minister of Stirling at that period, along with a Mr. David Bennet. There are some of the said James’s books, with the chair in which he sat, still in the manse of Stirling. In the council records, a Mr. John Allan is mentioned as prior to Mr. Bennet*.

Mr. Ebenezer Erskine was settled 3d minister in 1731, where he continued, till he was deposed by the General Assembly in 1738. Upon this, Mr. Erskine, and three of his brethren,

* By act of council 2. February 1663, Mr. Andrew Kynnier, minister of East Calder, was called and collated by the bishop of Edinburgh as minister, along with Mr. Matthias Simpson, who succeeded Mr. Bennet. In 1665, Mr. James Forfyth was first minister. In 1668, Mr. Patrick Murray was made 2d. minister, in the room of Mr. Kynnier who had died in 1664. But from the public confusion of that period, the vacancy was not sooner supplied. An act of 22d January 1676, appoints a commissioner to go to Edinburgh or St. Andrews, to speak to the archbishop of St. Andrews, and offer to him the person whom the council has chosen to be first minister of this burgh; and to deal with his Grace effectually thereanent. The minister’s name is not mentioned.

An Act is recorded 9th August 1679, anent supplying the vacancy of the 1st charge, by the death of Dr. William Pearfone.

28th August 1679, Mr. John Munro is presented by the Council.

On the 10th June 1682, Mr. James Hunter minister at Donying, is chosen 2d minister, in room of Mr. Patrick Murray deceased.

From this period; to the 1694, there is no mention of the ministers of Stirling in the records. From the 1694, we have Messrs. Robert Rule, John Forrester, James Brisbane, Archibald M’Aulay, Charles Muir, and Alexander Hamilton.

thren, Mr. Wilson of Perth, Mr. Alexander Moncrieff of Abernethy, and Mr. James Fisher of Kinclaven, seceded from the church of Scotland, and styled themselves *the Associated Brethren*. About the year 1744, some scruples were suggested to these brethren, then formed into a synod, with others who had acceded to them, about the *Burgess Oath*, by Mr. Moncrieff, which, in 1748, produced a schism among them.

At the head of the Associate Synod remained Mr. Ebenezer Erskine, and at the head of the other party, who called themselves Antiburghers, appeared Mr. Adam Gibb. Mr. Gibb excommunicated Mr. Erskine and his associates. The exceptionable clause in the burgess oath runs thus: "Here I profess before God and your Lordships, that I profess and allow with my heart, the true religion presently professed within this realm, and authorised by the laws thereof; I shall abide thereat and defend the same to my life's end, renouncing the Roman religion, called Papistry."

The Antiburghers decreed, that it was inconsistent with the principles of the Secession, to swear an attachment to the established religion, after having deserted it on account of its corruptions. The above burgess oath was used at Perth. In Stirling, there never was a word about religion in it, until some few years ago, the following clause was introduced, at the desire of some of the Antiburghers, to screen them from the censure of their minister and session. "I swear to be a faithful burgess to the burgh of Stirling, to obey the magistrates thereof, and town officers having their lawful commands," The additional clause follows: "*In matters purely civil, so far as agreeable to the word of God.*"

Since the deposition of Mr. Erskine, the third charge of Stirling has never been filled*. It was allowed to fall into disuse

* From the 1738, Mr. Thomas Turner, Mr. Daniel Macqueen, and Mr. John Mufchet, in the first charge. Thomas Cleland, Thomas Randal, Walter

disuse by the presbytery. Whether the assembly gave their sanction to this, is uncertain. A manse was bequeathed to the minister of the first charge, during the last century, by a Colonel EDMOND, who was a native of Stirling, and who, after rising to rank and affluence, as a soldier of fortune, gave this testimony of respect to the place of his nativity. The 2d minister has no manse. They have each of them 110 l. of stipend. The stipend of the 1st minister is paid out of the tithes, and collected by the town, in consequence of an agreement betwixt the minister and town to that effect. The stipend of the 2d is paid by the town, from an impost on the malt ground at the town mill. The chaplainry of the castle, procured through the interest of the town, is vested in the first minister only, during life.

Schools.—At the grammar school, which has two teachers, a rector and usher, 70 boys, on an average, are educated annually. The present rector, Dr. Doig, a man of distinguished eminence in his profession, is growing up in years, and declines the trouble of boarders, otherwise the school might be more numerous. At the writing school, the number of scholars is annually about 100. There are two established English teachers, and a teacher in Allan's hospital, permitted by the town, to receive English scholars, who may have under their care annually, about 200 children. The salary of the rector is 40 l. yearly, and a house. The other teachers have from 20 l. to 30 l. Sterling annual salary.

Population.—About 40 years ago, it is said, scarcely any house was repaired till it fell. Even then, it was often al-

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lowed

Walter Buchanan, and James Sommerville in the second, have successively filled the cure of Stirling.

lowed to lie for several years in ruins. Now, houses are rebuilt before they are totally decayed, and within the last 20 years, more houses have been built and repaired, than was done before in the course of half a century. Though more than 30 new houses have been built lately in the town and environs, some will not admit that the population is increased. The inhabitants, it is said, now choose to occupy more room.—That may be the case; but by the return made to Dr. Webster, in the year 1755, the souls in the parish of Stirling amounted only to 3951; whereas, by a pretty accurate survey, made in the year 1790, there were 1188 heads of families, and 4483 souls.—Besides, in this list, there are above 30 families in the environs of the town, not included. As the enrolment of the year 1790 was deemed incomplete, a new one was made this year, (1792,) and the number of souls in the parish was found to be 4698. Since the commencement of the summer 1792, they are probably augmented to 5000, by the increase of hands employed in the Cotton manufactory.

| | Ministers | People |
|---|-----------|--------|
| Of these 4698, there are belonging to the Established Church, | | |
| — The Burgher Secession, | 2 | 2795 |
| — The Antiburgher ditto, | 2 | 1415* |
| — Cameronian, | 1 | 172 |
| — Episcopalian, chiefly Nonjurants, | 2 | 120 |
| — The Presbytery of Relief, | 2 | 89 |
| — Bercans, or the disciples of Mr. Barclay, | | 74 |
| | | 33 |
| | | 4698 |
| | | Of |

* It will not appear surprising, that there are so many Burgher Seceders in Stirling, when it is recollected, that the Secession was begun in this place, by Mr. Ebenezer Erskine, who, by his highly popular talents, drew such numbers after him. This spirit, also, when once it is introduced, uniformly becomes hereditary. Besides, from the scantiness of room in the church, it is certain, that many take seats in that meeting, who are never in ac-

Of the different Professions there are,

| | | | | | |
|-------------|---|----------|-------------|----|----|
| Clergymen, | 8 | Weavers, | - | 68 | |
| Physicians, | - | 3 | Hammermen, | - | 13 |
| Surgeons, | - | 3 | Skinner, | - | 2 |
| Writers, | - | 18 | Butchers, | - | 2 |
| Merchants | - | 30 | Tailors, | - | 14 |
| Bakers, | - | 12 | Shoemakers, | - | 18 |

List of Births, Deaths, &c. for three years preceding 1792.

| Years | Baptisms ^a . | Marriages. | Burials. |
|-------|-------------------------|------------|----------|
| 1788. | 82 | 43 | 50 |
| 1789. | 75 | 51 | 4 |
| 1790. | 67 | 52 | 68 |

Manufactures.—As far back as the end of the 16th century, shalloons, manufactured in Stirling to a considerable extent, were sent over to the Low Countries. *Bruges* was then the staple port for Scotch commodities. The manufacturers mistaking their own interest, and debasing the quality of their shalloons, soon lost, however, the advantages of that gainful branch of trade, and the town became miserably poor. Though the manufacture was greatly hurt by such conduct, yet it was never entirely dropt. Coarse shalloons continued to be manufactured in Stirling; and at present this branch is considerably revived. For several years past, perhaps not less than 200,000 yards of this commodity have been annually manufactured in Stirling, and its neighbourhood. Towards the beginning of this century, and during the decay of the shalloon manufactory, that of the Tartan started up in its place. It continued to flourish till about the year 1760, but is now almost dwindled away. At present, the carpet manufacture flourishes. For several years, one company has em-

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ployed

usual communion with them. Perhaps, through length of time, necessity, more than any thing else, obliges many to connect themselves with those, with whom, for a long time, they only seemed to associate.

^a The list of baptisms is by no means complete.

ployed 12 looms in that work, and produced carpets of very fine colour, and the very best quality. Another company employs about 8 looms : and this year a third company has begun work, and mean to employ not less than 12 looms. There are in all betwixt 30 and 40 looms constantly employed. The dyers are reckoned eminently skilled in their profession, and the colouring of the Stirling carpets is allowed to be very fine.

The *cotton manufacture* also begins to take place here. Three companies from Glasgow give out cotton yarn to be woven, and one of them have about 40 little girls engaged at the tambour. Another company have this year got jennies; and though erected only at Whitfunday last, are just now employing 50 looms to spin their own yarn. Near 100 persons, young and old, are already employed by this new company. There may be in all 260 looms employed in weaving coarse muslin. Wool spinning is likewise carried on to a considerable extent. There are above 100 employed by one master in this work, in teasing, scouring, and combing the wool, and making it ready for the wheel.

The river Forth runs so level in the neighbourhood of Stirling, that mills cannot be erected for the purpose of manufactures. In every other respect, Stirling is favourable for them. Coals are plentiful; the rents of houses are low, and wages very moderate*.

Banks.

* The wages of a mason per day, are 1 s. 8 d.; of a labourer from 1 s. to 1 s. 2 d. Wrights get 1 s. 6 d.; Taylors 1 s. Shoemakers are paid by the piece. A man servant gets, per annum, from 4 l. to 5 l.; a maid servant about 1 l. 20 s. per half year, or from 50 s. to 3 l. per annum. The average price of butcher meat is 4 d. per lb. throughout the year. The beer and bread in Stirling are allowed to be of the very best quality.

Banks.—There are three banks in Stirling. The Bank of Stirling ; that of Campbell and Thomson ; and that of Beloh and Company ; besides a branch of the Old Bank of Scotland. The last, and two first, do business to a considerable extent.

Fishery.—The salmon fishery belonging to the town, which, but a few years ago, brought a revenue of 30 l. now brings 405 l. It is let to a company, who send the fish chiefly to the London and Edinburgh markets. There was, in the late lease, no reservation in favour of the inhabitants, which sometimes occasions murmuring, as the salmon is often higher priced in the Stirling market, than even in that of Edinburgh.

Hospitals, &c.—There are three hospitals. The first is that endowed by ROBERT SPITTAL, taylor to King James V. The date of the mortification is not on record. It is supposed to have been about 1530. The original sum is not known. It was mortified for the support and relief of poor tradesmen. There was a house built for their reception, at the foot of Mary's Wynd ; but it is probable they never occupied it, as there is not so much as a single tradition where it stood. The funds were laid out on lands in the neighbourhood of Stirling. The present yearly rent of these lands is 221 l. Mr. Nimmo, who speaks from report only, makes it 300 l.; and from the same source, makes the yearly income of Allan's Hospital also 100 l. more than it really is. At present, there are 44 pensioners on Spittal's Hospital, 16 of whom, who were deacons of trade, receive per week 1 s. 4 d. :—the rest have weekly 1 s. 2 d. The annual expenditure, for the support of the poor on this foundation, is about 172 l. Sterling. The managers of this hospital are at present increasing the funds. The charter being lost, the patrons have no rule for distributing the funds but custom. There is no provision from this hospital for the widows

widows of decayed tradesmen. There have been instances of this, however, though they are never admitted on the pension list. This had been a much better charity ; but was unhappily overlooked by the founder. A poor widow, stripped of charitable supply, at the same time that she loses her husband, must be poor indeed.

COWAN'S HOSPITAL comes next in order. It was founded and endowed by John Cowan, merchant in Stirling, anno 1639, for the support of 12 decayed guild brethren. The original mortification was 2222 l. Sterling. There was a neat genteel house erected by the patrons, after Cowan's death, for the reception of the brethren on whom he had entailed his charity. The situation of this house is most beautiful and romantic. But what is surprising, there were scarcely any to be found who would accept the benefit of charity, according to the appointment of the founder. The pride of the decayed brethren made them spurn at the idea of leaving their own houses, and retiring into an hospital, to be supported on public charity. For upwards of 90 years, the funds were allowed to accumulate. The house stood empty for nearly the whole of that period, nor was it ever completely occupied. With the accumulated funds, lands were purchased. Among others, those of the old Abbey of Cambuskenneth. The managers appointed by the founder were the town council, together with the first minister of Stirling. They knew not what to do with the revenue of the hospital. At length, it was resolved, to alter the mode of dispensing the charity, still following out the spirit of the institution. Not only decayed guild-brethren, but their widows and daughters are admitted to a share in these funds. The present income of the lands belonging to Cowan's Hospital is 11581. Sterling. There are above an hundred pensioners on this charity. They receive weekly from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s. 6 d. each, which amounts
annually

annually to about 658 l. Sterling. The surplus is expended in incidental charities, paying public burdens, and the interest of money lately borrowed to make an additional and advantageous purchase of lands. The funds are carefully managed, and, notwithstanding the above large expenditures, must increase.

JOHN ALLAN writer in Stirling, in emulation, very probably, of the benevolent example of the above mentioned gentleman, would also engage in the establishment of an hospital. He had more experience, and was determined to render his bounty more extensively useful and beneficial. About the year 1725, therefore, he mortified a sum of money, not for the support of the indigent squanderer, the negligent, and the unindustrious, but for the maintenance and education of the children of decayed tradesmen. The sum mortified was 30,000 merks. The managers are, the town council, and the second minister. They laid out the money on lands. The yearly rental of these lands, at present, is 298 l. Sterling. There are now 14 boys, maintained clothed and educated on these funds. The master of the hospital receives at the rate of 11 l. Sterling annually for each of them. They are admitted at 7 years of age, and kept in the house till they are 14. At leaving the hospital, they are allowed 100 merks to put them to a trade. The annual expenditure upon the maintenance, clothing, and education of these boys, is about 164 l. Sterling. According to a clause in Mr. Allan's will, ordering supply to be given from these funds, to any of his poor relations, who may be in indigent circumstances, there is at present about 37 l. Sterling yearly, paid to eight of his relations, at the rate of 1 s. 9 d. per week. The surplus funds, after paying public burdens, &c. go to accumulation.

Besides these charitable foundations, the funds of the guildry, or merchant company, detract the expence of educating the
the

the poor guild brethren's children, assist them in purchasing clothes, and paying their apprentice fees. The Kirk-Session pays to 56 paupers annually about 73 l. Sterling, at the rate of 6 d. *per* week to each. From the town's funds, there are six who receive about 16 l. Sterling annually, at the rate of 1 s. *per* week. They also pay for teaching 24 or 30 poor children to read English.

To prevent the nuisance of begging poor, a scheme, by annual voluntary subscription, was set on foot some years ago, from which about 80 paupers receive annually 156 l. Sterling, at the rate of 9 d. each *per* week. Besides all these charities, the Kirk-Session distributes betwixt 40 l. and 50 l. Sterling a-year to incidental poor. Nearly the same sum, or more, is distributed annually by the Burgher Secession; and the boxes of the different incorporations also give charity to a considerable extent. It is supposed, that every 12th person in Stirling receives charity.

This may seem surprising; and it will be necessary to mention some of the more obvious causes, why there are so many poor, and so great consumption of charitable funds, in such a small place as Stirling. It is generally said, that Stirling being so near the Highlands, and known to be rich in funds, a number of indigent people, while they are still capable of labour, but have little or no prospect of support at home, should infirmity or old age come on, emigrate annually into Stirling, and take up their residence there, till three years are elapsed, when they give in their claim for support, and are of course admitted as necessitous poor. It cannot be denied, but there may be some truth in the allegation, because the greater number of poor on the Stirling pension lists, are obviously of Gaelic extraction. Their names are almost all Gaelic names. Besides, there can be no doubt, that the report of rich funds has a strong attraction. This circumstance, of itself, chiefly multiplies

tiplies the poor. Increase the means of dependence, and the effect is unavoidably increased. This is more especially the case, if the funds are legally established, and, if a certain age and description entitles to a participation of these funds. It is more than presumable, that all charitable supply, except in cases of absolute incapacity of labour, should be casual, exactly proportioned to the deficiency of active power, and dependent on the most accurate investigation of the present circumstances of the pauper. If this is not the case, it uniformly cuts the nerves of industry, and is a nuisance to society, rather than an advantage. The indolent and the clamorous, looking forward with solicitude to that period, when they shall undoubtedly be entitled to support by certain statute, remit every exertion, consume like drones any little property that may remain to them, and fall at length, with eagerness, into the arms of provided and secured support, with a haughty contempt to this sacred dictate of common sense, "That he who will not work, should not eat."

The managers of the established charitable funds in Stirling are perhaps as accurate, attentive, and impartial, as any such body of men can be; but they must walk by statute, and are often obliged to admit upon the funds, those who both *can* and *ought* to labour for their bread. This circumstance has an influence extensively pernicious. Indolence is contagious. They who are capable of labour, being rendered indolent and inactive, through dependence on secured support, gave a tincture to all their immediate connections. They are ever found among the sauntering and the idle, and consequently increase the number of the poor.

Nor can the ordinary managers of the poor's funds, however attentive, always exclude the undeserving.—They meet too seldom.—They have too little time.—They cannot be at the pains to give incidental aid, the most useful and neces-

fary of all charity. It is easier for them and for their treasurer, to admit persons to regular and stated pensions. Stated pensions, except to the blind, the lame or the diseased, are always productive of dependence. They continue the demand on the poor's fund; they increase the number of the poor. This cause indeed is not peculiar to Stirling. It operates in every place where the administration is not in the hands of the Session, who, from the frequency of their meetings, and their thorough acquaintance with the circumstances of the poor, must ever be the most natural and judicious dispensers of public charity; and there can be no doubt, but the gentlemen of landed property, who, in many places of Scotland, have contributed to *annihilate* the Sessions, will soon find the punishment of their folly, in the enormous weight of assessment, which they must lay upon their land, for the support of the daily increasing poor.

The great number of low houses in Stirling augments the list of the poor. The proprietors of such houses, unable or unwilling to repair them, can let them only to the poor, the sluggish, or the depraved. None else will take them. In such uncomfortable habitations, the spirits of men are broken, or their health impaired; and they soon fall unavoidably on the funds of the poor.

The low rate of female labour in Stirling, is another source of poverty. The utmost a woman can earn by spinning wool, is 3 d. a-day. With this they cannot maintain themselves, pay the rent of a house, and get other necessaries. Such small encouragement destroys industry. A female having so little prospect of advantage from her labour, is at no pains to be expert in it. Many of them will rather be idle altogether than turn a wheel. When necessity urges, they are incapable of proficiency, and must either starve or beg. There are, perhaps, few places in Scotland, where the quantum of female labour

labour is less, because it is so unproductive. Manufacturers should consider themselves as obliged to increase the price of female labour.

But perhaps the chief cause of the numerous poor in Stirling is the castle. This may seem a paradox, but it is easy to be explained. The sole use of this fortress, at present, is to be an asylum to invalids. About 100 of these are generally stationed in it. These men, who probably enlisted at first, from dislike to labour and regularity, do not find, in the army, much opportunity of becoming attached either to industry or sobriety. Having generally contracted habits of thoughtlessness and dissipation, they retire into the castle, very little qualified to enjoy the advantages of that situation. Secured in 6 d. a-day, or looking forward to the Chelsea pension, the low women in Stirling aspire at a connection with them, and think, that when they are wives of castle soldiers, they shall never want. When these invalids and pensioned soldiers are sober and industrious, they are very able, with their pay, to provide a decent support for their families; but few of them are of this character. Being generally ignorant, vicious and debauched; they get wives like themselves, or make them so. All their income is usually spent with the day. They never get their houses furnished. They live amidst meanness and rags. Their minds are debased. Their children are trained up under the very worst example. The fathers soon die, worn out with intemperance. They leave their families beggared, unprincipled and debauched. These families are the nurseries of beggars. Nearly one half of the paupers in Stirling spring from these nurseries.

Where there is so much poverty, there will of course be much baseness and degeneracy of mind. True religion only can tame the heart, and sweeten the manners of the poor. On them, however, this is generally found to have little influence.

The strong cravings of nature lead them another way. These, being but ill supplied, produce violence, chagrin, jealousy, and every ill passion. Give them, and they are tolerably quiet and orderly ; but withhold or constrain, (both of which are often absolutely necessary,) and they are clamorous, surly, invidious, and bent on every practice within their reach, however criminal it may be, to obtain what they need. The manners of the inferior ranks in Stirling, must therefore be necessarily rough, petulant and disagreeable. Harassed with perpetual anxieties about daily bread, they have little or no time to think of superior objects ; and either will not, or cannot come within the reach of those important lessons of divine truth, which support the mind of man, and render him calm, patient and composed, even although the field should yield no corn.

But what still farther induces this unwilling complaint, against the manners of the poor, is a circumstance not peculiar to Stirling, though it takes place there. It is found in almost every town, city, and borough, throughout Great Britain, and is singularly disgraceful to a great and enlightened nation. There is generally no room in churches for the accommodation of the poor. They must either loiter away the days of public solemnity, in sloth and vicious indulgence at home, which they will very soon be inclined to do, or they must stand at an awful distance, in some cold unoccupied area, which very soon becomes irksome and intolerable. Besides, in such situations, it is scarcely possible they can receive much advantage from public instruction. Let a remedy be provided for this evil : Let churches be built, or decent places provided for the accommodation of the poor, and their manners would soon be corrected, at much less expence, and much more effectually, than by thousands expended on the building of bridewells and correction houses. Charity employed in
preventing

preventing vice is charity indeed. That which is employed in *correcting* it is often mere selfishness.

The manners of the inferior ranks are also much hurt and debased every where, by the great number of tippling houses, and the low price of ardent spirits. Of these, the number in Stirling has been considerably diminished for some years past, but ought to be still more so. In 1782, there were 94 licensed ale houses in Stirling. In 1790, there were only 68. The difference has arisen probably from the additional tax. In 1782, a licence cost 1 l. 1 s., In 1790, a licence cost 1 l. 11 s. 6 d. If the legislature would increase the tax upon the retail of ardent spirits, it is probable such a step would contribute much to prevent the growing depravity of the people. It would diminish the number of those nests of vitiation. It would lessen their accessibility, especially to the weaker sex, who, from many circumstances, are too easily led to haunt them. One of these must be particularly mentioned, though not peculiar to Stirling. While females are servants in families of superior rank, or even in the houses of the better kind of tradesmen, instead of receiving abundance of plain and wholesome food, which is their due, they are foolishly indulged with luxuries, which they can taste no more the moment they become the wives of honest labourers. Feeling this change of situation, which occasions disagreeable reflections, and subjected to the uneasinesses unavoidably connected with their change of state, they betake themselves to ardent spirits to kill their griefs, and are thus insensibly led into habits of intoxication, which ruin themselves, their interests, and their families in every respect. There is no cause of increasing immorality, among the lower ranks of the people, more abundant than this. There is none, which the care of magistrates and rulers ought to be more employed to prevent. If the mothers of families are corrupted, virtue must be gone. Masters should have regard to the future interests of their ser-

vants, more than to their present indulgence. Magistrates and rulers should render the venom, which poisons the morals of the people, as inaccessible as possible.

This is more in their power, and vastly more practicable, as well as likely to be more efficient in remedying material evils, than the system so much in vogue among our present sciolists in government, who are for pulling down every thing, in order, as they pretend, to build up a more perfect and beautiful edifice. Let the revenue laws be reviewed*. By them, the people have been in a manner compelled to use spiritous liquors, for want of wholesome beer: The present mode of gauging the brewer, and of farming the duties to the distiller, has the unavoidable effect of ruining the former, and encouraging the latter. The consequence is, that the brewery, in most parts of Scotland, produces a thin vapid sour stuff, under the name of small beer, which is all that the common people can possibly get for their money, unless they go to the expence of English porter, now become the beverage of the more opulent. The poor labourer, finding that the beer he purchases neither warms nor nourishes him, flies unavoidably to ardent spirits, now selling at a very reduced price.

Besides, the distiller works, as it is called, *against time*, i. e. he pays so much annually per gallon, for the contents of his still, and works without controul. It is said, that a distiller can now charge his still, no less than 25 times in 24 hours, instead of once or twice as formerly, when he was regularly surveyed. This pours in so great a quantity of the commodity to the market, that it cannot miss being cheap. Hence the labourers take whisky, with a little bread to their breakfast. It inebriates and subverts the minds of men, women
and

* Sanabilibus ægrotamus malis,

and children, emaciates their bodies, renders them unfit for labour, ruins their persons, corrupts their hearts, and leads them to think of plots, rebellion and every evil work. Take the tax off the brewery, and lay it on the distillery, and it is impossible to say how much the virtue and morals of the people would be improved. This is an object surely worthy of a wise and virtuous administration. These observations were unavoidable, from an attentive survey of the manners of many among the lower ranks of the people.

Character.—With respect to the manners of the inhabitants in general, there is a sobriety, order, and decency among them, scarcely to be expected. The great body of the people, in Stirling, even of the principal people, do not yet think it below them to attend religious ordinances; and, there are few who allow themselves, in the practice of jaunting, or making excursions on the Lord's day, for the sake either of business or pleasure. Hence, there is among them, an external decorum and soberness of mind, a freedom from giddiness, extravagance, and dissipation, which respect for religious institutions alone can produce. Urbanity and social intercourse are not unfrequent among them. The only thing which interrupts this is political jealousy,—a dæmon, which, at certain seasons, unhappily rages too much in almost every little burgh throughout Scotland. Would magistracy uniformly maintain the dignity of that situation, and exert itself with spirit or boldness solely for the public good, without any regard to the prolongation of their honour, but just as it results from public suffrage and opinion, this evil would nearly expire. So far as this evil results from dissentient principles in religion, it is less susceptible of cure. For this, no remedy can be found, but the restoration of religion itself, which always renders men forgiving

ing, affectionate and gentle, and uniformly unites them into one.

Miscellaneous Observations.—Stirling being situated on the isthmus, betwixt the Forth and Clyde, is, by means of its bridge, the great thorough-fare of the north of Scotland. There are only two inns in it which deserve the name. These are spacious and good.—The county meetings are usually held in Stirling. There is no public room, or hall for this purpose.—Stirling is one of the seats of the Circuit Court.—The only jail in the county is here. The number of prisoners is generally not great. For these three last years, there have been only two criminal trials. Petty thefts and debt are the ordinary causes of imprisonment.—The Falkirk district of the county, being the most populous, and no public magistrate residing there, it uniformly furnishes the greatest number of prisoners.—The banditti always croud to a populous place, where there is no established authority. There should be, in every county, a public work-house, for the confinement of the pilferers and forners, who are found to be of that county. Banishment only increases their necessity of stealing.

In the council house of Stirling is the *Jugg*, appointed by law to be the standard of dry measure in Scotland. It is statuted and ordained, that the wheat firiot shall contain the full of this jugg twenty one times and one fourth; and that the firloe for barley, malt and oats, shall contain it 31 times. The great number of public transactions, which have taken place in Stirling, and in the castle, would, of themselves, fill a volume; and, if deemed necessary to the Statistical account, can be found in Nimmo's history, and the Encyclopædia Britannica, under the article STIRLING.

NUMBER XV.

PARISH OF KELTON.

(County and Presbytery of Kirkcudbright.—Synod of Galloway.)

By the Rev. Mr. THOMAS HALLIDAY.

Names, Situation, River, Extent and Soil, &c.

KELTON consists of three united parishes, *Kelton, Gelfon, and Kirkcormock*. Near the S. E. boundary of the parish, there is the vestige of an old chapel, called *Kirkmirren*, supposed to have been designed for a Chapel of Ease. The etymology of these names is uncertain: probably they are either of Celtic or Saxon original.

The great military road from Dumfries to Port Patrick, runs through the parish for the space of four miles, in a direction nearly from N. E. to S. W. It is separated from the parishes of Tongland and Balmaghie by the Dee, a river abounding with salmon of the richest quality and flavour.

Kelton is about 6 miles in length. In breadth, it is very unequal. At a medium, it is nearly three miles, and contains an area of above 9500 square acres. The soil of the

parish is exceedingly various, generally thin. In some places, it is a fine loam ; in others, it is a deep watery till, especially on the small hills of a conical figure, with which the parish abounds. These little hills are all arable ; but they render the surface very uneven. The most luxuriant crops are produced, in general, when the ground is well manured with dung, lime, or marl. Lime is imported from England at 1 s. Sterling per Carlisle bushel. In the north end of the parish, there is abundance of the finest shell marl. On the S. and S. W. borders of the parish, there are some hills, mostly covered with heath. The highest of these is steep and rocky, and rises 1100 feet above the level of the sea.

Climate and Diseases, &c.—Kelton is seldom visited with those fogs, or noxious damps, which are unfriendly to health. The air is, in general, dry and salubrious. No diseases are known to prevail in the parish, but such as appear in other places of the country, that are deemed healthful. Rheumatic complaints seem to prevail most. Fevers of different kinds now and then appear, and sometimes consumptions, &c. The ravages of the small pox are greatly prevented by the humane and successful plan of inoculation. Instances of longevity have not been wanting in Kelton. Seventy is not reckoned old age. Numbers arrive at 80 years, and several at 90, and upwards. There is a woman now living in the parish, aged between 97 and 100 years ; and a woman died lately at the town of Castle-Douglas, having reached the long period of 107 or 108 years. She remembered King William the III's cavalry passing through this country to Ireland in 1689. The heaviest rains here are from the S. E., South, and S. W. ; and the strongest winds are from the W. and S. W.

Products

Produce and Exportation.—The chief produce of Kelton is oats, which are of a very good quality. A considerable quantity of barley, and *bigg*, or bear, is raised in the parish; and some wheat. Rye, pease, and beans, are not much cultivated; but there is plenty of potatoes for home consumption, and a good deal for exportation. The lands are generally laid down, or sown out, with rye-grass and clover. Few have yet paid attention to Turnips. The average exportation of grain is, of late years, about 2000 bolls, each boll containing 11 Winchester bushels, or 22,000 Winchester bushels in whole. The markets are, the north of England, and the west of Scotland. The oats, when well cleaned, yield rather more than a stone of meal per bushel. One great hindrance to improvements, in this place, is the high miltures. Hemp and flax are not much attended to in this parish.

Black Cattle, Sheep, &c.—The staple commodity of Galloway, which comprehends the shire of Wigton, and stewartry of Kirkcudbright, is black cattle and sheep. Besides what are used in home consumption, many thousands of black cattle are annually driven to the English markets. The black cattle in Kelton amount to above 2000, are strong made, and of a middle size. The sheep do not exceed 1000. Those fed upon the hills are of the small old breed of the country; those fed on the lower and improved grounds, are much larger; generally of a mixed English breed, and have finer wool; but are stronger, and not so pleasant to the taste, as the small kind. There are above 300 horses in the parish.—There are 50 ploughs, and 89 carts employed in husbandry.]

Population.—The present state of population in Kelton is 1600 souls. The return to Dr. Webster, in 1755, was 811;

increase 789. The proportion the sexes bear to each other is about 90, or 91 males to 100 females. No distinct register of births, marriages and deaths, has been kept in Kelton, since the year 1727; and therefore, the different ages of the inhabitants cannot, with any sort of precision, be ascertained. The increase of population has been very considerable in the parish since the year 1765, and is still advancing, with rapid progress. Marriages and births are become very frequent, because of the continual increase of the inhabitants.

The different professions are as follows :

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|-----|----|-------------------|-----|----|
| Merchants, | - - | 14 | Hair-dresser, | - - | 1 |
| Square-men or wrights, | | 9 | Bakers, | - - | 2 |
| Smiths, | - - | 7 | Masons, | - - | 14 |
| Tailors, | - - | 10 | Slater, | - - | 1 |
| Weavers, | - - | 14 | Stocking weaver, | - | 1 |
| Butchers, | - - | 3 | Sadler, | - - | 1 |
| Surgeon, | - - | 1 | Tobacco spinners, | - | 2 |
| Shoemakers, | - - | 5 | Carriers, | - - | 2 |
| Clockmaker, | - - | 1 | | | |
| In all, | - - | | | | 88 |

Church, Schools, and Poor.—The King is sole patron of the united parishes. The stipend of Kelton, as settled in the year 1788, is 80 l. Sterling neat, exclusive of a glebe of about 15 acres. The manse and offices were rebuilt in the year 1777.—There are three schools in the parish, but they are very poorly endowed. One of these has only 2 l. 8 s. 9 d. another 2 l. 10 s. and the principal school about 8 l. 4 s. Sterling of annual salary, exclusive of school wages, which are very low in this place. Above 50 scholars usually attend each of these schools.—The poor are, for the most part, supplied by the collections made in the church. There are not above 12 at present upon the list. The collections for the poor amount to about 24 l. Sterling per annum, at an average.

There

There are no mortifications in Kelton for the use of the poor. The church was rebuilt in the year 1743. In 1783, a large aisle was added to it; and still, it is by far too small for the accommodation of the people.

Fuel.—Peats are the fuel that has been commonly used in Kelton; but they are now become very scarce, as the moss in most places, is nearly exhausted. No coal has yet been found in this country, and the expence of that article from England is exceedingly high. Coals, at present, in the port of Kirkcudbright, are sold at 1 l. 8 s. Sterling per ton, exclusive of cartage, which, to the consumer in Kelton, raises the price to about two guineas per ton*.

Rent, Heritors, &c.—The rental of Kelton, as it stands upon the Cess Roll, is 3598 l. Scotch. The real rent is above 4500 l. Sterling. There are 18 Heritors in the parish, 7 of whom reside.

Villages and Markets.—There are two villages in the parish, both upon the military road, about a mile and a half distant from each other. At the south west village, called *Rbonhouse* or *Kelton Hill*, there is held on the first Tuesday after the 17th day of June, O. S. an annual horse fair, the largest, perhaps, of any in Scotland, where there is, generally, a very fine shew of all sorts of horses. To this fair, vast numbers of horse-dealers resort from England, Ireland, and the east, south, and west of Scotland. Many chapmen and hawkers frequent Kelton Hill fair. Upon the hill adjoining to the village, where the fair is held, many large and well covered tents are erected by people from Dumfries, Kirkcudbright,

* The ton of coal at Kirkcudbright, is 38 cwt. at 7 stone English each cwt.

Kirkcudbright, Gatehouse of Fleet, &c. stored with provisions and all sorts of liquors, for the accommodation and refreshment of those whose business calls them to the fair; and, considering the vast concourse of people upon that occasion, they generally dispose of their articles to advantage. The fair lasts only one day. At this place too, a weekly market for black cattle is held upon Monday, beginning in October, and ending in December, every year.

Trade and Manufactures.—The other village, formerly called *Carlinwark*, now erected into a free and independent burgh of barony, and denominated *Castle-Douglas*, after the superior, is situated at the north corner of the Carlinwark Loch. Within the limits of this burgh, there are, at present, between 600 and 700 inhabitants, where, 26 years ago, there were not 20. At this town a banking branch is now established; and, two companies are engaged in the manufacture of cotton: one of these companies, (in which the superior, William Douglas Esq. of Castle-Douglas, a gentleman of great property, and principal heritor of the parish, is concerned,) proceeds upon a pretty large scale. Here, likewise, a soap-work, brewery, tannery, and woollen manufactory, are in contemplation. One great hindrance, however, to the establishment and carrying on of extensive manufactures in this place, with success, and to advantage, is the scarcity of fuel. Should a plan be adopted whereby to remedy that inconvenience, it would tend much to the benefit of Kelton, and this country in general. Were the tax taken off the importation of coals from England, that salutary end would, perhaps, in a great measure, be attained. In regard to population, the town of Castle-Douglas, is increasing with rapidity, and needs only manufactures to render it considerable *.

Wages,

* There is a post office at Castle-Douglas, where mails are dispatched and received every day, to and from all the principal post-offices in Great Britain and Ireland.

Wages, Servants, &c.—The common rate of wages given to a man servant, fit for every branch of husbandry, is from 8 to 9 guineas per annum. And the wages given to the best women servants, are from 3 l. 10 s. to 4 l. 20 s. per annum. Forty years ago, the very best men servants received no more than 2 l. per annum, and the best female servants 15 s. Sterling. The common rate of wages, then, was considerably lower than is stated above. Cotter's wages are now about 15 l. Sterling per annum. Tradesmen have 1 s. 8 d. per day, and some receive more, exclusive of victuals. The number of men servants in Kelton, including cotters, of whom there are 30, amounts to about 100. The female servants are nearly double that number.

Mills.—There are three corn mills in the parish, one barley mill, and one flax mill. Though flax is not much attended to in Kelton, the mill is supplied from the neighbourhood around *.

Lake and Murl.—Near the north corner of the parish, there is a lake, commonly called *The Carlinwark Loch*, along the west side of which runs the military road. The extent of this loch, before it was partly drained in the year 1765, was 116 square acres. Ten feet of water were then taken off from it by a cut, or canal, to the water of Dee. Now it is only 80 square acres in extent. This loch is one great source of improvement to Kelton and the neighbourhood. It contains
in

land. About six years ago, the postages received at this office, amounted only to about 48 or 50 l. Sterling, and did not defray the expence of the establishment. Now it yields a revenue of 140 l. Sterling per annum, and is still upon the increase.

* The rate of living bears a full proportion to the increase of wages. It is a well known fact, that 50 years ago, 50 l. was more than equal to 150 l. now; so great has been the advance of every article of living. Provisions, &c. of all kinds, still continue to rise in their price.

in itself, and the mosses adjoining, an inexhaustible fund of the very best shell marl. The marl is taken out of the loch by means of boats and ballast bags, wrought with a wheel; a mode that is pretty expeditious; and it is taken out of the mosses, in the way of throwing, usually practised in other parts of the country.

Improvements.—Since the loch was drained, the face of the country, all around, has undergone a very wonderful change in point of improvement. Not only Kelton, but the parishes of Buittle, Crofsmichael, Balmaghie, Parton, Balmaclellan and Kells, reap the benefit of the marl, from the Carlinwark Loch and its vicinity. Marl is carried from the Loch in flat bottomed boats, along the canal to the Dee, in large quantities, for the improvement of the lands on each side. It is conveyed up the river, by means of these flats, as far as New Galloway, to the distance of 15 or 16 miles*. Before the late improvements in husbandry, the crops in this place were, in general, very light; and the grain, in quantity and quality, inferior, by far, to what it is now.

Antiquities.—At the N. E. boundary of the parish, there is the vestige of an old Druidical temple, near to which there is an abundant spring of excellent water. It was, probably held sacred to the worship of the pagan God, *Tbor*. From this temple, the farm in which it is situated, seems to have derived its name, *Tbors* or *Tors*, plural, being now divided into *upper*, and *nether*.

When the water was let out of the Carlingwark loch, in the year 1755, at the mouth of the drain next to the Loch, there

* In the Carlingwark Loch, there are pikes, perches and eels, which are consumed in the neighbourhood.

there was found a *dam*, or building of stone, moss, and clay *, which appears to have been designed for deepening the Loch. Before it was drained, there were two isles in the Loch, the

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one

* Besides the stone dam mentioned above, there was one of oak wood and earth, at the end of the town of Castle Douglas, now covered by the military road. About this place, many horse-shoes were found, sunk deep in the mud, of quite a different make from those now in use. Several very large stag heads were got in the Loch; a large brass pan was also found in it. Near the S. W. corner of the Loch, a brass *pugio*, or dagger, 22 inches long, and plated with gold, was raised from the bottom in a bag of marl. The *pugio* is in the possession of Mr. Gordon of Greenlaw. On the west-side, near the south corner of the Loch, between it and the military road, there is a small piece of rising ground, in view of the castle of Thrieve †, and distant from it, a full mile, called *The Gallows Lot*. On the top of this, stood a gibbet or gallows, upon which were executed those whom Douglas, Lord of Thrieve Castle, thought proper to criminate. Here, it is said, McClelland of Raeberry, Lord Kirkcubright, was put to death by the command of Douglas, notwithstanding the king's letters demanding his release. This circumstance proved fatal to Douglas, his family and interest, in this part of the country. The remains of Raeberry lie buried in the church of Kirkcormock, as appears from the inscription upon a grave-stone there. In the centre of a cairn, near Gelston, was found a stone coffin, above 7 feet long, and 3 feet wide, in which were human bones, in length and thickness, larger by far than the now common size; also a brass or copper helmet, with some other implements of war, greatly corroded. Not far from this place, a nicely carved urn was dug out of the earth, filled with a reddish dust. On the hills, near the S. E. boundary of the parish, there are the vestiges of two large Danish or Saxon encampments, of a circular form, and not far from one another; the one 117, and the other 68 paces in diameter, strongly fortified with triple walls of stone, of a great thickness. In the S. E. border of the parish, likewise, there has anciently been a pottery. The place, where the clay had been dug up for the work, is still very discernible, and the fragments of earthen ware are frequently to be seen in the fields adjoining. From this work, the farm, in which it was situated, has derived its name, *Potterland*. There are several beautiful moats in the parish, and the ruins of a castle that belonged to the Lords of Kirkcubright, which had been surrounded with a wide and deep ditch, filled with water.

§ *The Castle of Thrieve stands upon an island surrounded by the Dee, and belongs to the parish of Balmagbie. An accurate account of this ancient and famous Castle may be seen in Mr. GROSE's Antiquities.*

one near the north end, and the other near the south end of it. These isles were places of rest, for large quantities of water fowls, of various kinds, which annually came and bred there ; even wild geese, it is said, have been sometimes known to breed on these isles. There was always a tradition in the parish, that there had been a town in the Loch, which sunk, or was drowned ; and that there were two churches or chapels, one on each of the large isles : There is also a tradition, that the cannon, with which James the IVth. battered the castle of *Thrieve*, was made, (that is, the staves were put together and hooped,) at Buchan's Croft on the west side of the Loch. One of the balls, weighing 48 pounds, picked out of the wall of *Thrieve*, is now at Greenlaw. The vestige, or foundation of an iron forge, was discovered on the south isle. Around it, likewise, there had been a stone building, or rampart ; and, from this isle, to the opposite side, on the N. E. there is a road of stone secured by piles of oak wood, with an opening, supposed to have been for a draw-bridge. In several places of the Loch, canoes were found, which appear to have been hollowed, after the manner of the American Savages, with fire. . On a small isle, near the north end of the Loch, there was found a large iron mallet or hammer, stained on one end with blood. It is now in the hands of the Antiquarian Society at Edinburgh, and is supposed to have been an instrument used by the ancient Druids, in killing their sacrifices. On several of the little isles in the Loch, were large frames of black Oak, neatly joined. There are two small isles, that have been evidently formed by strong piles of wood driven into the moss and marl, on which were placed large frames of black oak. The tops of these were fully six feet under water before the Loch was drained. The design of these works is not at present known.

Chabac

Character, &c.—The inhabitants of Kelton are, in general, an intelligent, polite, social, and hospitable people. In regard to elegance in houses, neatness of dress and genteel living, they are equal, if not superior to their neighbours around them. The sentiments of the people of Kelton, with respect to religion and morality, are, for the most part, rational, just, and free from bigotry.—None belonging to the parish, in the memory of the oldest now living, have suffered the pains of law for any capital crime.—There are four noted inns in the parish, and many small tippling houses. These little gin shops have a ruinous effect, upon the health and morals of the lower classes of the people ; the adopting, therefore, some effectual measure for their suppression, would be a business not unworthy the attention of those, to whom the police of the country is intrusted.

NUMBER XVI

PARISH OF APLEGARTH.

(County and Synod of Dumfries.—Presbytery of Lochmaben.)

Situation, Rivers, Extent, &c.

THE parish of Applegarth, or Applegirth, lies in that part of the shire of Dumfries, which was formerly called the Stewartry of Annandale. The river Annan divides it from the parishes of Lochmaben and Johnstone, and the water of Dryfe, for a considerable way, from the parish of Drysdale. These two waters join together about a mile below the church. The southernmost part of the parish, is of a triangular form. Its greatest length from south to north, is about 6, and its greatest breadth from west to east, about 5 miles. The distance from Dumfries, the county town, is about 11 miles, and from Annan about 12.

Produce, Soil, &c.—These are also the nearest sea-port towns, and to one or other of these ports, the grain produced in the parish is usually carried, and from thence exported either to England or Greenock. The barley is commonly sent to
Liverpool,

Liverpool, and the oat meal to Greenock, to supply Glasgow, Paisley, and the west country, from which there is sometimes a considerable demand. The lands in the parish, in general, are good, especially upon the banks of Annan and Dryfe. There is a good deal of what is called *holm* land, which bears very good crops of barley and oats. Sowing of wheat is not much used in the parish, nor in this part of the country. Lime, which is now greatly used as a manure, is brought, at the distance of 12 miles, from the southernmost part of the parish, and is also carried to the high grounds, where the soil is not so good; and in general good crops are produced after liming.

Roads, &c.—The great turn-pike road from Carlisle to Glasgow and Edinburgh, passes through the parish, from south to north, about six miles. This road was made about 15 years ago, and has been of the highest advantage to the improvement of this neighbourhood. A mail coach, from London to Glasgow, passes through the parish, every day, along the said turn-pike road; and carriers almost daily from Glasgow to Carlisle, and the manufacturing towns in England. There is a stage in the parish, viz. Dinwoodie Green, where the mail coach stops and changes horses. This stage is only 5 miles distant from the village of Lockerby, where there is a post office, 11 miles from Ecclesfechan, and 11 from Moffat, which are also stages, and have post offices. Through the latter village, a diligence passes from Dumfries to Edinburgh, 3 times a-week, which renders travelling from this part of the country, to Edinburgh and Glasgow, very easy and convenient. The parish is distant from Edinburgh about 60 miles, and nearly an equal distance from Glasgow.

Proprietors and Rent.—There are six heritors in the parish,
but

but only one of them resides, viz. Sir William Jardine of Applegarth, Bart. who has the most considerable property in it. The valued rent is 6725 merks. The real rent is estimated at between 2800 l. and 3000 l. Sterling; but the proprietors are not all willing to disclose the amount of their rents.

Population.—The number of inhabitants, in the parish, have greatly decreased within the last 15 years, owing to the proprietors of the lands, having conjoined a number of small farms together, and let them to one tenant. The males and females born in the parish are nearly equal. For the space of 15 years, there has been only eight more males born than females. This, however, cannot be exactly ascertained, for the Seceders seldom enter the names of their children in the register. The following table exhibits the ancient and present state of the population :

POPULATION TABLE of the PARISH of APFLEGARTH.

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|-----|
| Population in the year 1777, | - | - | - | 943 |
| 1755, | - | - | - | 897 |
| Increase in 22 years, | - | - | - | 46 |
| Population in 1792, | - | - | - | 741 |
| Decrease, on the whole, in 37 years, | - | - | - | 156 |
| Average of births, | - | - | - | 14½ |
| Number of males, | - | - | - | 357 |
| females, | - | - | - | 324 |
| Members of the Established Church, | - | - | - | 685 |
| Relief Congregation, | - | - | - | 28 |
| Cameronians, | - | - | - | 3 |
| Antiburghers, | - | - | - | 24 |
| Burghers, | - | - | - | 1 |
| Proprietors residing, | - | - | - | 1 |
| non-residing, | - | - | - | 5 |

Church, &c.—The manse is an old house, built upwards of 60 years ago. The church is situated near the river Annan, and

and was built about 30 years ago. It is large and well built, and sufficient, at present, to contain the whole inhabitants of the parish. It has a large *jam*, very commodious for dispensing the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, which, in some of the neighbouring parishes, for want of room in the churches, is dispensed in the fields. The stipend has been, for upwards of 60 years, 74 l. Sterling, including Communion Elements; but the Lords of Council and Session have lately been pleased to grant an augmentation of 4 chalders of victual, 2 of them meal, and 2 of them bear, which will now make the stipend 100 guineas a-year, or better. The glebe is very small, only consisting of between 5 and 6 acres.

It is generally supposed, that there have been 2 parishes annexed to Applegarth, viz. Sibbaldbie and Dinwoodie. It is not certain, however, whether Dinwoodie was ever a distinct parish or not. It appears rather to have been a Chapel of Ease to Applegarth. Sibbaldbie has been a distinct parish; and, some of the old people, now living, remember to have seen the church standing, of which there are still some vestiges. The minister of Applegarth was in use to officiate occasionally at Sibbaldbie. The Marquis of Annandale claims the patronage of Sibbaldbie. Sir William Jardine is patron of Applegarth, and claims also the patronage of Sibbaldbie.

Schools and Poor.—There are 2 school-houses lately built in the parish, at the expence of the heritors, who have voluntarily assented themselves with the payment of 5 l. Sterling annually, to one of the schoolmasters, and 3 l. 6 s. 8 d. to the other. There are about 10 or 12 persons in the parish on the poor's list, who occasionally get a small supply from the collections made in the church; and, there is a mortification of 3 l. 6 s. 8 d. granted by the family of Applegarth, which, by the deed of mortification, is to be distributed at the sight, and

by the advice of the Kirk-Session, amongst the poor in the barony of Applegarth, and nine merk land of Sibbaldbie; which is that part of the old parish of Sibbaldbie, that belongs to the estate of Applegarth.

Fuel and Mills.—The common fuel is peats, the procuring of which occasions a very great labour for the people, during the whole of summer; and, in wet seasons, the inhabitants are greatly distressed for want of fuel in winter. There are 3 corn mills in the parish, a barley and lint mill were lately built on the water of Dryfe, and another lint mill is now building on the water of Annan.

Cattle and produce.—There are only 2 or 3 sheep farms in the parish. The number of sheep does not exceed 1800 or 2000. There are about 1500 black cattle, 150 horses, and 60 ploughs. The farmers, in general, are in tolerable good circumstances; and, from the high prices of black cattle, (the crops also being good after liming, and oats, meal and barley, giving a good price,) they are now better able to pay their rents, than they were some years ago, though the rents have been raised considerably. The average price of barley is from 2 s. 6 d. to 3 s., the Winchester bushel; of oats 2 s. or 2 s. 6 d. and oat meal 1 s. 8 d. or 1 s. 9 d. per stone. These are the staple commodities by which many of the tenants pay their rents. A considerable number of black cattle also are reared in the parish; and these, when about a year and a half old, are sold for about 2 l. 10 s. or 3 l. each.

Cultivation.—Several of the farmers are now getting into a better mode of managing their farms, by summer fallowing, by sowing turnips, planting cabbages, and other green crops; after which they sow barley with grass seeds. It is not long
since

since the sowing of barley was introduced into the parish. Bear, which still mostly prevails, was universally sown. Few of the farms are inclosed. It would be a very great improvement to this part of the country, and of advantage to the farmers, if their farms were all inclosed, and subdivided with dykes, and hedges. The hedges would thrive exceedingly well, as the soil, in general, is good, and where they have been planted, they have thriven well.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The farmers and the parishioners in general, are laborious and industrious, and commonly very healthy. Fevers, or any epidemical disorders, seldom prevail in the parish, except the small pox, which carries off several of the children. Most of the country people still entertain strong prejudices against inoculation, though not so great as formerly; for several have been lately prevailed on to get their children inoculated, and these instances have always been attended with remarkable success.—Many of the natives live to a good age. There were, some time ago, in the church, in one day, three old men, whose ages amounted to 270. Several of them live to the age of 80 or 90, but few or none to 100.—There are no villages in the parish, nor manufactures of any kind carried on, except by a few weavers, who are chiefly employed by the inhabitants.

NUMBER XVII.

PARISH OF BEITH.

(Counties of Ayr and Renfrew.—Presbytery of Irvine.—Synod of Glasgow and Ayr.)

By the Rev. Mr. DAVID M'CLELLAN.

Situation and Extent.

THIS parish lies within the county of Ayr, and district of Cunningham; excepting 4 farms which belong to Renfrewshire, on the border of which it is situated. It extends about 5 miles in length, from E. to W. and its breadth is about 4. The land rises by a gradual ascent from S. to N. where there is a small ridge of hills, whose summits are elevated, perhaps about 400 feet, above the lowest ground in the parish, or 500 feet above the level of the sea.

Rent, Heritors, Cultivation, &c—The valued rent, of that part of the parish which lies in Ayrshire, is 6115 l. 14 s. 2 d. Scotch; and that of the 4 farms in Renfrewshire, 163 l. 6 s. 8 d. The real rent is believed to be in some places 6 times, in others, 8 times, and, perhaps in others, owing to their vicinity to the town of Beith, the richness of the soil, or the high cultivation of the lands, even 12 times the valued rent.

There

There are two circumstances chiefly, which serve to account for the high rent of lands in this neighbourhood. The country is populous, and property is greatly subdivided. Beith is surrounded on all sides with considerable villages and towns, to the number of 12, within as many miles. The subdivision of property is more remarkable, in this and the neighbouring parishes, than perhaps in any other part of Scotland. There are in this parish 195 heritors, besides a considerable number of smaller proprietors in the village. This circumstance is supposed to have much influence upon the cultivation, and of consequence upon the produce and rent of lands. The small land-holders generally reside upon their own property; and improvements made by any of them, in the cultivation of their lands, and management of their farms, are more readily adopted by the rest, than those introduced by persons who have large estates, or carry on farming upon a more extensive scale, because they are evidently more within their reach. The lands in this parish are almost all arable, and were generally inclosed many years ago. The common practice amongst farmers is to plough only a third part of the arable ground annually, upon which they raise oats or barley; but seldom any wheat, peas or beans. Rye-grass seed is frequently sown, where the ground is rich, or well manured; but very little clover is raised, and sometimes hay is made from the natural grass.

Cheese, Cattle, &c.—The tenants in this parish pay their rents chiefly from their dairy. They almost universally make sweet milk cheese. The method of making this cheese was first introduced into this country, by a farmer's wife in the parish of Dunlop, about the beginning of this century; and from this circumstance, it has got the name of *Dunlop* cheese. It is a commodity which has been rising in value for a long

time past. The present price is 7 s. per stone, containing 24 lb. English. About 100 cows are kept for the purpose of making cheese. The average produce from each cow, besides what goes to the use of the family, is supposed to be 3 l. 10 s. Sterling per annum ; and consequently, the quantity of cheese sent to the market annually, from this parish, should bring to the farmers about 3500 l. *.

Roads and Bridges.—The great^e road from Glasgow, by Paisley, to Irvine, Ayr and Port-Patrick, passes through the town of Beith. It is much frequented, especially in summer. A stage coach, in some seasons, runs in that direction from Glasgow to Ayr, three times a-week. The parish roads, in several places, are not in good repair, owing to the deepness of the soil, or the scarcity of proper materials. The statute labour is paid in money. All the roads are well supplied with bridges, wherever they have been found necessary. There are no turnpikes in the parish.

Ecclesiastical State.—The Earl of Eglintoun is Patron. The stipend paid to the minister, by use and wont, (for there is no decret for it,) is 79 bolls of meal, and 17 l. 12 s. 6 d. in money. The old glebe, upon which a part of the village now stands, was exchanged in 1727, by a formal contract between the Earl of Eglintoun, the presbytery of Irvine, and the incumbent, for a small farm near the town of Beith, consisting, as is mentioned in the contract, of 31 acres 3 roods. It would appear, that the present church was built soon after the reformation. There is a stone in the wall, with the date 1593 upon it ; and there is a coat of arms, coarsely done, upon the front

* For this information, the writer of this paper is indebted to a gentleman very conversant in country affairs.

front of a gallery, having the date 1596, and marked with the initials of *Robert Montgomery of Giffan*, a younger son of the Earl of Eglintoun, and his lady, who was of the family of Loudoun. The church is built in the form of a cross. In 1754, one of the ailes was lengthened, so as to admit of nearly 200 additional sitters. This was done at the expence of the Kirk Session, with the advice and consent of the heritors, for the behoof of the poor *.

Population.—About the time of the revolution, or rather earlier, the *Kirk-town of Beith*, as it was then called, is said to have consisted only of 5 dwelling houses, and the minister's manse. Accordingly, the 5 feued houses are mentioned, as a distinct article, in the cess books. In the year 1759, there were about 700 examinable persons in the town, and upwards of 800 in the country part of the parish. The return to Dr. Webster, in 1755, was 2064 souls. The number of inhabitants in the country, has continued much the same ever since; but the population of the town increased so rapidly, that, in 1788, it contained nearly 1500 examinable persons. Since that period, however, it has rather decreased. From a very accurate enumeration taken lately, with a view to be inserted in this paper, the population was found to be as follows :

In

* From a Latin inscription upon a grave-stone in the church-yard, it appears, that Mr. WILLIAM MAITLAND was minister here, from 1669 to 1681, when he died at the age of 46. It is said that he was one of those who accepted the indulgence. The old people speak of some curates who succeeded him, but none of them were of any note. The third minister of Beith, after the revolution, was Dr. WILLIAM LEECHMAN, late principal of the University of Glasgow, in 1736; who, in 1744, was succeeded by Dr. JOHN WETHERSPOON, now President of Princetown College, New Jersey, to whom the present minister, succeeded in 1758.

| | Families. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|----------------------|-----------|----------------------|----------|--------|
| In the town, | 488. | 797. | 957. | 1754. |
| In the country, | 216. | 553. | 565. | 1118. |
| In the whole parish, | 704. | 1350. | 1522. | 2872. |
| | | | 1350. | |
| | | Majority of females, | 172. | |

Births annually taken at an average, in periods of 4 years since 1759.

| | | |
|---|---|------------|
| Period 1. from 1759 to 1762, inclusive, | - | 57½ |
| — 2. 3. 4. 1763—1774, ——— from | - | 60½ to 61½ |
| — 5. — 1775—1779, ——— | - | 72½ |
| — 6. — 1779—1782, ——— | - | 87½ |
| — 7. — 1783—1786, ——— | - | 93½ |
| In 1787 and 1788, | - | 121 |
| — 1789 and 1790, | - | 89 |

No register of burials is kept in this parish; and therefore, no calculation, to be depended upon, can be made, with regard to the proportion of deaths to births.

Climate, Diseases, &c.—There are several persons, both in the town and country, above 80 years of age, but none so old as 90. The climate does not appear to be very favourable to longevity. Owing to the elevated situation of the country, and its vicinity to the western ocean, we have frequent rains and storms; and the air contains a greater degree of moisture, than in places removed to a considerable distance from the Atlantic. There is frequently a good deal of sickness in the village. The diseases most common are fevers and consumptions: the croup* and small pox sometimes prove very fatal to children. The people, in general, are averse to inoculation. No remarkable instance of longevity is known to have occurred amongst those who have resided in the parish. A native, however, of this place, named *Matthew Tait*, died upon the 19th of

* Or *Cynanche Trachealis*. See the note, p. 273.

of January last, in the parish of Auchinleck, at the very advanced age of 123 years. According to his own account, he was born at the farm of Willieyards, but left the parish when young, and enlisted in the army. He served as a private soldier, at the taking of Gibraltar by the British in 1704. His name is not to be found in our register; but it is known, that there was a family of the name of Tait, at Willieyards, more than a century ago, and some of their relations still live in the parish.

Trade and Manufactures.—About the time of the union of the two kingdoms, a trade in linen cloth was introduced into this place, which became so considerable, that the Beith markets were frequented by merchants from the neighbouring towns every week. Many houses, soon after this, were built on the old glebe, upon tack rights granted by the minister for half a merk Scotch, of rent per fall; and, when the Glebe was afterwards exchanged, the Earl of Eglintoun became bound to grant feu rights to the holders of these tack rights, upon equitable conditions, particularly specified. About the year 1730, the linen business, which had greatly declined, was succeeded by a considerable trade in linen yarn. The Beith merchants purchased the yarn made in the country around; and sold it to the Paisley and Glasgow manufacturers. This trade, when carried to its greatest extent, about the year 1760, is supposed to have amounted to 16000 l. Sterling yearly; and though it has long been upon the decline, linen yarn is still a considerable article of merchandize. The demand for this commodity encouraged the farmers to raise great quantities of flax. About 60 hhds. of flax seed were sold in this town annually. From 1777 to 1789, the manufacture of silk gauze was carried on to a great extent in this place, particularly

particularly by the Messrs Fultons of Paisley. They employed at one time 270 looms. Considerable quantities were also, at the same time, manufactured by persons in the employment of other companies. This business has also greatly failed.

Present state of Trade and Manufactures in the parish of Beith.

| Number of Extensive Works. | | | Number of persons employed | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-----|--|---------|-----|
| Candle works, | - | 2 | in making thread, | - | 63 |
| Licensed distillers, | - | 3 | — Weaving muslin, | - | 70 |
| Tobacco Manufacturing Company, | 1 | | — — — silk gauze, | - | 44 |
| Tan-work, | - | 1 | — — — country work, | - | 33 |
| Malt work, | - | 1 | | | — |
| Corn mills, | - | 4 | | In all, | 259 |
| Lint mills, | - | 5 | Besides many females employ- | | |
| Wauk mill, | - | 2 | ed in sewing and tambour- | | |
| | | — | ing muslin. | | |
| | | 18 | | | |
| Number of Artificers, &c. | | | Number of Merchants, &c. | | |
| Masons, | - | 22 | Cloth merchants, | - | 9 |
| Houfecarpenters, | - | 21 | Grocers, | - | 18 |
| Sadlers, | - | 2 | Yarn merchants, | - | 11 |
| Shoemakers, | - | 29 | Bookfeller *, | - | 1 |
| Smiths, | - | 15 | | | — |
| Coopers, | - | 4 | | | 39 |
| Bakers, | - | 4 | Number of Persons in other Profit- | | |
| Tailors, | - | 13 | able situations or situations of Life. | | |
| Flax dressers, | - | 6 | Bankers †, | - | 2 |
| Watchmaker, | - | 1 | Surgeons, | - | 2 |
| Barbers, | - | 2 | Druggist, | - | 1 |
| Butchers, | - | 6 | Justices of the Peace §, | - | 2 |
| Hatter, | - | 1 | Keepers of licensed public houses, | - | 17 |
| | | — | Carriers and carters, | - | 24 |
| | | 126 | Dyke builders, | - | 56 |
| Number of Persons employed | | | Day labourers, | - | 20 |
| in spinning cotton, | - | 50 | | | — |
| | | | | | 114 |

* This gentleman's shop generally contains about 3000 volumes.

† These gentlemen are agents for the Paisley bank.

§ A monthly court is held in the town of Beith.

We have 3 principal fairs annually, and a weekly market upon Friday. There is often a fine shew of horses in the Beith markets, especially on the 30th of August, *St. Tennant's day*, (supposed to be a corruption for *St. Anthony's day*,) and on several Fridays in the beginning of spring. It is obvious from the above statement, that the population of the town of Beith increased with its trade; and that the present decrease in the number of its inhabitants, is owing chiefly to the decline of the silk manufacture, and to the extensive cotton works erected in the neighbourhood, particularly in the parish of Lochwinnoch, and at the town of Johnstone, in the parish of Paisley.

Poor.—The funds for supporting the poor are the weekly collections at the church door; the hire of the mortcloths; the rent of the poor's aile, the seats of which are let yearly by roup; the rent of a small farm, purchased with the poor's money in 1695, and a small proportion of the dues of proclamation of marriages. The average amount of these funds, from Whitsunday annually, appears, by the register, to be as follows:

| | From 1757 to 1770. | From 1770 to 1780 | From 1780 to 1790 | Total of each in 34 years. |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Collections, L. | 28 11 0 | L. 36 5 8 | L. 41 1 4½ | L. 103 18 0½ |
| Mortcloths, | 6 6 10½ | 5 16 5½ | 8 15 4½ | 20 18 8 |
| Seat rents, | 8 3 0½ | 11 9 6 | 15 2 10 | 35 15 4½ |
| Farm rent, | 6 0 9 | 9 10 0 | 15 0 0 | 30 10 9 |
| Total funds L. | 49 1 7½ | L. 63 1 7½ | L. 79 19 7* | L. 193 2 9½ |

in these periods.

The collection last year amounted to-upwards of 45 l. and it is still upon the increase, though we have various dissenters,

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* The poor's share of the dues for proclamation of marriages, at an average, for the last 10 years, is 1 l. 12 s. 9 d. annually.

and though the population of the town has begun to decline: Besides the distributions, which these funds enable the Session to make to the poor, they sometimes receive a temporary assistance from occasional charities *.

Charitable Societies.—There are three charitable societies in Beith; two of those commenced in 1772. One of them has 220 l. of stock and the other 370 l. The third commenced in 1784, and its funds amount to 300 l. The advantage of these institutions has already been sensibly felt, by those of the poor who are entitled to their charity. The funds of these societies, are deposited in the public banks for security. In 1782 and 1783, the funds of the two first mentioned societies, together with 40 l. furnished by the Kirk Session, were employed under the direction of a Committee, in purchasing grain and meal for the use of the inhabitants. The meal was sold to the inhabitants in general, at the market price; but to the members of the societies, and to the poor $\frac{1}{3}$ d. cheaper per peck, by proper persons appointed to this office, who received a small allowance for their trouble. From the 28th of October 1782, to the 14th of September 1683, above 1000 bolls were sold in this manner. As the object was to secure plenty, a premium of 6 d. per boll was given for 230 bolls of the above quantity, which had the desired effect.

Since charitable societies are evidently of great utility to the poor, it is a pity they should labour under any disadvantages, tending to check the ardour of that benevolence, to which they owe their existence. They certainly deserve every encouragement from the friends of mankind, and are even

* A committee of heritors annually examine the accounts of the poor's money, and give a discharge to the treasurer.

even entitled to the countenance of government, and the protection of law. It would doubtless serve the cause of humanity much, to confer upon them such privileges, as might enable them more fully to carry into effect the laudable purposes of their institution; and to put them under proper regulations, sanctioned by an act of the legislature in their favour; declaring amongst other things, that such associations are legal, and their rules, with regard to their own members, capable of being enforced by law:—that they have a right to make such bye-laws as shall not contradict any statute law of the realm, or the original rules of their association:—that their articles of agreement must be registered in the sheriff court books of the county to which they belong;—that they shall lodge their cash with some banking company for security: that they shall be exempted from stamp duties on bills and receipts, in regard that their funds belong to the poor: that it shall be as competent for them, as for individuals, to purchase and dispose of property in lands or houses; and that their capital shall not be allowed to accumulate above a certain sum, or beyond a certain number of years. Such privileges and regulations as these, confirmed by legal authority, it is apprehended, would encourage the formation of such societies, and thereby great relief would be afforded to the deserving poor;—any deficiency of the ordinary charitable funds would be made up, and the necessity of poor's rates prevented; which must always be an object of importance to the nation; and with such views these remarks are submitted to the consideration of the public.

Vagrant Poor.—The great number of stranger poor, who wander through the country, has long been complained of, not only as a burthen, but as a nuisance; and to encourage them, is to encourage idleness, theft, and debauchery. In 1786, a vigorous attempt was made to prevent them from begging

in this parish. The parishioners, in general, subscribed a paper, binding themselves neither to lodge vagrant beggars, nor give them alms. Several of the inhabitants were appointed to act as constables, in apprehending and carrying them out of the parish; any expences necessary for this purpose were to be paid by the heritors. At the same time, the poor of this place were furnished with certificates, which authorised them to beg within the parish. The good consequences of these measures were, for some time, remarkable. Such regulations, perhaps, might not be so suitable for large towns; but, were they generally adopted in country parishes, they would, in all probability, have the most salutary effects. Vagrants would be effectually excluded; the charity of every parish would be bestowed upon its own poor, and there would be less occasion for stents and such legal methods of raising supplies for the poor, as are always burthenfome to the public, and frequently prove the occasion of cruelty and additional distress, to those objects of sympathy they are intended to relieve.

School.—In the parish school, the following branches are taught: Latin, Greek, French, English, Writing, Arithmetic, Book-keeping, and the practical branches of the Mathematics. The number of scholars, for some years past, has been from 60 to 90. The schoolmaster's salary is 11 l. Sterling, subject to the deduction of 3 l. to be divided equally among the teachers of three small schools in the country, who are chosen by the people in the neighbourhood, and are entitled to this encouragement upon their keeping school, for 4 months in the year. There are also two private schools in the town which are well attended.

Dissenters.—There are two dissenting meetings in the town of Beith : One of them, which is attended by that class of Seceders, called *Antiburghers*, commenced above 30 years ago. The first minister ordained to this charge soon after renounced his connection with that society, and embraced the communion of the Established Church. He published at Edinburgh in 1764, the reasons which induced him to this measure, under the title of *A farewell Address to the Associate Congregation of Beith, by John Laidly, A. M.* It must be mentioned to the honour of this congregation, that they co-operate, as far as their weekly collections can allow them, with the Established Church, in supporting the poor of the parish. They contribute for this purpose at the rate of about 7 l. annually, which is distributed jointly with the parish funds formerly mentioned ;—an example worthy to be imitated; by all dissenters. The other dissenting meeting is connected with the society, who are called Relief. It commenced about 9 years ago.

Antiquities.—Before the reformation, there were 2 chapels for public worship in this parish ; one where the present church now stands, (whereof a small fragment of the wall is still to be seen,) and the other upon the lands of Treehorn, one end of which remains entire. This chapel, with two acres of land adjoining to it, belonged to the monastery of Kilwinning, as appears from a charter under the great seal, in the possession of the proprietor, dated in the year 1594*.

There were formerly several castles, or square towers in the parish. All of them have been razed to the foundation but one, which forms at present a stately ruin. It was anciently the seat of the Montgomeries of Giffan.

Lake

* " *Quemadmodum tota et prædicta capella de Trearne, et dua acra terrarum adiacen : cum suis pertinentibus per prius monasterio de Kilwinning, tanquam pars patrimonii, pertinerunt.*"

Lake and Fish — *Kilbirnie Loch*, which lies at the west-end of this parish, is something more than a mile long, and about half a mile broad. It contains trouts, pikes, perches, &c. and is frequented in hard winters by many aquatic birds, such as ducks, geese, swans, &c.

Fuel, Minerals, &c. — Both peats and coals are used for fuel, but chiefly the latter. Peats are always used in drying corn, and for the purposes of the dairy. The extent of moss is very inconsiderable. Coals are found in many parts of the parish, but have never been wrought with great success. We are plentifully supplied with that useful commodity, from the neighbouring parishes of Dalry, Lochwinnoch, and Kilbirnie: and this appears to be the principal reason, why proper efforts have not been made, to turn our own coal to greater advantage. We have abundance of whin stone, and free stone is found very frequently, but of an inferior quality. There is, however, a remarkable species of free stone near the west end of this parish. It lies in horizontal *laminae*, or flakes, to a considerable depth, and these are from 2 to 6 inches thick, and from 3 to 4 or 5 feet square. It does not receive the same polish as other freestone, but is of a very firm texture, and greatly valued on account of its strength. It is used chiefly for pavements, and for bridges over small rivulets. It bears the weight of the heaviest carriages. The limestone in this parish is inexhaustible: besides the great quantities annually burnt by the farmers upon their own lands, for manure, there are 2 public lime-works, which have a regular and extensive sale. Several beds of stone marle have been lately discovered, and many rich veins of iron stone.

Petrifications. — There are various specimens of figured stones, and upon some of them, the impressions are exceeding-
ly

ly beautiful. The lime stone abounds with petrifications of shells, *entrochi* and other marine productions; the *exuviae* of the ancient ocean. In the lands of Robert Montgomery Esq, of Bogstown, some years ago, silicious petrifications were discovered, similar to those found in calcareous substances; the shells possessing the specific qualities of the flint in which they were incorporated. These curious and uncommon productions of nature were probably the first of the kind discovered in this part of the world; at least they were the first that some of the ablest chemists in this country had seen. Silicious petrifications have been since found both in England and Scotland, but very rarely.

Proposed Improvements.—The cultivation of trees is much neglected in this country. Excepting the *policies*, or pleasure grounds, around a few country seats, there is very little growing wood in this neighbourhood, though there are few places where it is more necessary. Were proprietors to plant a small proportion of their land, it would certainly prove of great advantage to the soil, as well as afford a shelter for cattle, in so exposed a situation.

Were a navigable canal carried across the country, from the Clyde below Paisley, to the sea at Irvine or Saltcoats, it would be of essential service to this part of the kingdom, and to the public in general. The distance is upwards of 20 miles. Nature seems to point out the line of communication, through a narrow strath, running in that direction most of the way. In the middle of this strath stands the loch of Kilbirnie, about an equal distance from each end of the proposed canal, and it occupies also nearly the highest ground between them. A stream runs from the north end of this loch into the Clyde below Paisley, and the water of Garnock, running
in

in an opposite direction, passes by the other end of it, and empties itself into the sea at Irvine. The fall, from the north end of Kilbirnie Loch to Clyde, is calculated to be about 95 feet, and the declivity towards the sea can not be much more. Were this plan put in execution, besides serving many other commercial purposes, it would lay open immense treasures of coal, lime and iron stone. But should this be thought too expensive an undertaking, a canal of only half the proposed length, joining Kilbirnie loch, either to the Clyde or to the sea, would still be an object of great importance. *Considering the present high price and scarcity of COALS, any proposal tending to enable proprietors of coals, at a distance from populous cities, to carry them with advantage to market at home or abroad, deserves their regard.* And any improvements suggested with a view to secure plenty, or to lessen the price of a commodity so useful and necessary, has a claim to the public attention.

Whatever reason there might be, to impose a servitude upon the farmers in former times, for encouraging the erection of corn mills, *thirlage* is at present justly considered, not only in many instances to be inconvenient, but in general burthensome. The *multure* and other perquisites paid to the miller, and his servants, amount in some places to the $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{3}$, or even $\frac{1}{2}$ of the produce. This is a heavy tax upon agriculture, and it lays the tenant under temptation to carry part of his grain elsewhere, to the prejudice of the miller, as often as he can avoid detection. It would be of advantage, therefore, both to the holders of land, and the proprietors of mills, in this and other parishes, were the latter obliged to sell, and the former to buy up this servitude at a moderate value.

NUMBER XVIII.

PARISH OF GUTHRIE.

(County of Angus.—Presbytery of Arbroath.—Synod of Angus and Mearns.)

By the Rev. Mr. WILLIAM MILLIGAN, Minister of
KIRKDEN*.

Situation, Surface, Soil, and Extent.

THE parish of Guthrie is divided into two parts, one of which is 6 miles distant from the other, and lies directly south from it. The inhabitants of the southern part, in going to their own parish church, pass through the parishes of Dunnichen, Kirkden, and Rescobie. This part is called *Kirkbuddo*, where it is said there was once a chapel for religious worship. The moor of Montrithmont, nearly a plain, consisting of about 5000 acres, which was a common, probably ever since it was covered by the sea, has been divided among

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the

* This account was drawn up by Mr. Milligan, at the desire of Mr. THOMAS CRAIG, minister of Guthrie, who has been settled in that district for 39 years; but, being prevented by indisposition, from drawing up the account himself, requested Mr. Milligan to take the trouble of doing it.

the proprietors of the surrounding parishes of Kirkden, Kinell, Fernel, &c. who are enclosing and planting their several proportions. About 370 acres of this moor have fallen to the share of the parish of Guthrie. Almost the whole northern part of the parish sinks gently to the south and east, from the top, near to the north west end of it, called the *Hill of Guthrie*, the highest part of which is probably not much more than 500 feet above the level of the sea. There is no hill in the southern part of the parish, but the lowest ground in it is probably near 700 feet higher than the sea. Most of the parish, especially the southern part, is too wet. The annexed table states accurately, the extent and kinds of land in the southern part of the parish, being the contents of a map from a late mensuration. The northern part is taken from the proportions of oats, barley, pease, &c. sown by the different farmers according to their own reports, and cannot be supposed so accurate. The extent of it is, probably, rather more, than is stated in the table.

| Number of Acres, &c. | Extent of the Parish. | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----|----|-------------|----|----|
| | North part. | | | South part. | | |
| | A. | R. | F. | A. | R. | F. |
| In pasture, - - | 51 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 2 | 26 |
| Arable, - - | 1138 | 0 | 0 | 682 | 1 | 7 |
| In moor, - - | 370 | 0 | 0 | 186 | 3 | 11 |
| Under moss, - - | - | - | - | 85 | 2 | 39 |
| — water, - - | - | - | - | 2 | 0 | 36 |
| — wood, - - | 15 | 0 | 1 | 49 | 1 | 1 |
| Graze contents, - | 1574 | 0 | 1 | 1107 | 0 | 0 |

Crops in 1791.

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Number of acres under barley. | - | - | - | - | 244 |
| — oats, | - | - | - | • | 334 |
| — pease, | - | - | - | - | 60 |
| — flax, | - | - | - | - | 19 |
| — turnips, | - | - | - | - | 31 |

Carried over, 688

Brought

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---|---|-------------------|
| | | | | Brought over, 688 |
| Number of acres under potatoes, | - | - | - | 12 |
| Grass, | - | - | - | 372 |
| fallow, | - | - | - | 66 |
| | | | | <hr/> |
| | | | | Total, 1138 |

Agriculture and Cattle, &c.—There is a regular rotation of crops, in the southern, as well as in the northern part of the parish, and probably about the same proportion of oats, barley, pease, &c.; but it is divided into such small parts, that it was impossible to state them accurately. There are six farms in the southern part, viz. one of 169 acres; one of 65; one of 45; one of 47; one of 39; and one of 33 acres, all arable: and the rest of the estate of Kirkbuddo is divided into no less than 25 small farms. The number of cattle and horses are in proportion to the grass, and the lands in cultivation. There are not above 3 or 4 saddle horses, and scarcely any sheep or hogs.

Rent and Proprietors.—The average price of land, lately let in the northern part, is about 15 s. and in the southern part, 10 s the acre. The valued rent of the parish is 1500 l. Scotch, and the real rent above 1000 l. Sterling. The parish is divided among 3 proprietors, only one of whom, (Guthrie of that ilk,) resides in it about 7 months of the year.

Church, School and Poor.—The kirk and school are situated in the northern part of the parish. The manse is old and ruinous. The stipend, including 2 chalders of meal, at the ordinary conversion, is below 50 l. Sterling. The glebe is a legal one. The church is an elegant building for such a country parish. The walls, or at least a part of them, are said to be about 300 years old, and they may stand for 1000

years to come. Mr. Guthrie of Guthrie is patron*. The school-master is well qualified for his office. The salary, including kirk dues, may be between 11 l. and 12 l. Sterling. The school fees are the same as those of Kirkden. The scholars are numerous, but the southern part of the parish can reap no advantage from the school. The weekly collections, and the interest of a small sum of money, are found sufficient for the maintenance of the poor, of which there are at present only two supported by the public funds, and two or three who receive small sums occasionally.

Population.—The people, almost without exception, are sober, industrious and contented; and a few excepted, all belong to the Established Church. The return to Dr. Webster, in 1755, was 584 souls. By a particular enumeration, taken in 1792, the number, ages and professions of the inhabitants, appeared to be as follows:

Number

* The parish was erected into a provostry by one of his predecessors, as appears by the following citation from an old author, who had written an account of the different dioceses of Scotland.

"Guthrie, in the shire of Angus or Forfar, was a collegiate church, founded by Sir David Guthrie of that ilk, who was Lord High Treasurer in the reign of King James the III. for a provost and three prebendaries, the number of which was afterwards increased by Sir Alexander Guthrie of that ilk, his son and heir, who was slain at the battle of Floudon, in the year 1513." Henry Guthrie, bishop of Dunkeld, was descended of a younger son of this ancient family. Families, like individuals, often rise to strength and notice, and decline again into weakness and obscurity, sometimes suddenly and sometimes more slowly. This old family seems not yet the worse of age. John Guthrie, Esq; of that ilk, possesses a fine estate in the shire of Angus, though his predecessors were advanced to the highest honours, as far back as the reign of James the III.

| Number of persons | In the northern part. | | In the southern. | | Total. |
|--|-----------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|--------|
| | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | |
| Under 10 years of age, | 42 | 43 | 35 | 28 | 148 |
| Between 10 & 20 — | 50 | 36 | 25 | 30 | 141 |
| ———— 20 & 50 — | 73 | 71 | 31 | 39 | 214 |
| ———— 50 & 70 — | 20 | 12 | 15 | 12 | 59 |
| ———— 70 & 92 — | 3 | 4 | 2 | | 9 |
| | <hr/> 188 | <hr/> 166 | <hr/> 108 | <hr/> 109 | |
| | <hr/> 108 | | | <hr/> 166 | |
| Total of males, | 296 | - | and females, | 275 | 571 |
| Hence there is a decrease within these 40 years of | | | | | 13 |

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|---|----|----------------------------|---|----|
| Number of Families, | - | 76 | Number of Merchants, | - | 2 |
| ———— Farmers, | - | 14 | ———— Brewers, | - | 1 |
| ———— Weavers, | - | 17 | ———— Retailers of liquors, | - | 2 |
| ———— Taylors, | - | 5 | ———— Male servants, | - | 50 |
| ———— Shoemakers, | - | 2 | ———— Female servants, | - | 33 |
| ———— Smiths, | - | 1 | ———— Tradesmen's servants, | - | 11 |
| ———— Coopers, | - | 1 | ———— Apprentices, | - | 2 |
| ———— Wrights, | - | 2 | | | |

List of Births, &c. for the last 10 years.

| In the year | there were | Baptisms. | Marriages. | Burials. |
|--------------------|------------|-----------|------------|----------|
| 1782 | | 17 | 3 | 6 |
| 1783 | | 12 | 3 | 9 |
| 1784 | | 15 | 2 | 10 |
| 1785 | | 14 | 2 | 11 |
| 1786 | | 9 | 1 | 10 |
| 1787 | | 16 | 3 | 8 |
| 1788 | | 17 | 2 | 10 |
| 1789 | | 14 | 6 | 4 |
| 1790 | | 13 | 4 | 9 |
| 1791 | | 12 | 6 | 20 |
| Total in 10 years, | | <hr/> 139 | <hr/> 32 | <hr/> 97 |
| Average, | | 13 9-10 | 3 3-10 | 9 7-10 |

Fuel.—The northern part of the parish is supplied with coals from Arbroath, and the southern part with peats from

a moor, part of which is in the parish. Coals are usually from 6 s. to 6 s. 8 d.; but this year they have been 7 s. at the lowest, and for 4 or 5 months past 8 s. the cart load, of 70 stone Amsterdam weight.

Antiquities.—In the southern part of the parish of Guthrie, there are upwards of 15 acres of moor, which are part of a Roman camp. The rest of it is in the parish of Inverarity. The *vallum* and *fossa* are yet very distinct, and of a considerable height and depth. The castle of Guthrie, supposed to have been built by Sir Alexander Guthrie, who was slain at Floudon, is a strong building, and is still entire. The walls are about 60 feet high, and 10 feet thick. It has a prodigious massive iron door. This castle and its door are at once a monument of the ancient grandeur of the family of Guthrie, and of the rudeness and barbarity of those times, when men could not live secure, but in such strong towers. The garden of Guthrie is a mixture of ancient and modern taste; it has several beautiful box hedges cut in various figures, and in perfect preservation, though very ancient. Some suppose the garden to be nearly as old as the castle.

N U M B E R X I X .

United PARISHES of GLENORCHAY and INISHAIL.

(Presbytery of Lorn.—Synod and County of Argyll.)

By the Rev. JOSEPH MACINTYRE, D. D.

Erection and Name.

THE parishes of Glenorchay and Inishail were conjoined into one cure, in the year 1618. By a committee of parliament, met at Inveraray, in the year 1650, these parishes were disjoined, on account of their great extent, and continued separate till the restoration; when, by the memorable *Rescissory Act*, they were again united, and have continued since under the pastoral charge of the same incumbent.

The parish of Glenorchay derives its name, from the vale where the church is built. It was formerly called *Clacban Dysart*, a Celtic word, signifying, “The Temple of the Highest.” The place, where the parish church stands, was probably the site of the *Clacban*, or “Circle of stones,” of the Druids. *Dysart* properly means *The Highest God*. The founders of a church, designed

designed for a more enlightened worship, in order to induce the Pagan inhabitants to attend the institutions of revealed religion, were naturally led to make choice of a situation, the more revered by them, as being the place where they had formerly been accustomed to perform their rites of devotion *. *Inishail*, or *Beautiful Isle*, is so named, from that green and picturesque island in Lochow, once the site of a small nunnery of the *Cistercian* order; and where, in a ruinous chapel of that religious house, public worship was alternately performed, till the year 1736. A church, more commodious for the parish, was then built on the south side of the lake, opposite to Inishail.

Extent and Situation.—The length of the united parishes, from E. to W. is above 24 measured miles. The breadth is various and unequal. They are situated on the borders of the county of Perth, near the village of Clifton, and inn of Tayndrom, one of the highest inhabited situations in North Britain. Here, a small rivulet marks the division of the counties of Argyll and Perth; part of which runs eastward into Loch Tay, and falls into the German sea; and part runs westward into Lochow, and discharges itself, at *Bunaw*, into an Arm of the Atlantic ocean. The church of Glenorchay is 15 miles N. E. from Inveraray, the chief town of the shire, and the seat of the courts of justice; and is nearly at an equal distance S. E. from Bunaw *.

Surface,

* Cordiner's Antiquities.

* At this place there is a considerable salmon fishing and iron foundery; and a quay is built on a secure and well sheltered bay for vessels of small burden, which ply occasionally, to Liverpool, Whitehaven, Ulverston, and other places, loaded with pig-iron, tanner's bark, kelp and salmon; and import in return, iron ore, meal, coals, tanned leather, stone-ware, and other articles of commerce.

Surface and Soil.—Excepting the vale of Glehorchay, which forms a beautiful plain of more than 3 miles in length, and half a mile in breadth, the plains of Auch, of Auchalader, and part of the lands of Hayfield, the country exclusively is mountainous and hilly. The river *Urchay* winds in a gentle current through the vale, dividing it into two equal parts. On each side of the river, the soil is a mixture of light earth and sand; and on the sides of Lochoy, as far as the parish extends, it is generally a deeper earth and richer loam, on beds of till or gravel. The glebe, on which the church and manse are built, is a beautiful oblong isle, formed by the river Urchay. It is in the centre of the valley and above a mile in circumference, and every where bordered with natural terraces and shelving banks, and fringed with coppice and various kinds of trees, to the very edge of the river.

Produce and Cultivation.—The crops produced, on these lands, are the blainley, the early white, and the small grey oats; Scotch bear, potatoes, a few field turnips, some artificial, and much natural, as well as meadow grasses. The ordinary return from oats is from 3 to 4 seeds; of barley, from 5 to 7, and from the boll of potatoes, from 12 to 20. The annual change of the different seeds is found to be of great advantage, as the same seed, sown successively for years, in the same soil, becomes gradually small and unproductive. It is customary, yearly, to import quantities of seed oats from the high grounds near the Kirk of Shotts, and from several parts of Perthshire. Culinary plants are coming more and more into general use in this country: Some years ago it required the influence of the landlord; and in some places, an express stipulation in the lease, before the common people could be got to plant greens, or fence a garden.

Potatoes.—No where are potatoes cultivated with more care or thrive better. They are mostly planted in drills, and hoed by the plough. The largest are always selected for seed. The kinds chiefly used, are those called here, *the London Lady*, a prolific and sweet potatoe; the *long white*, the *dun*, the *wife*, the *early red*, and the *purple*. From all of them, a starch is commonly manufactured by a simple process, for family use. Some distill a fiery and harsh spirit from potatoes; and at times, *bread jelly*, and a very *bad cheese*, are formed of this valuable root, when combined with other substances of nutrition. For nine months of the year, potatoes make a great part of the food of the middling and lower ranks of people; and it may be said, with truth, that, till the general introduction of potatoes into this country, so little adapted, from soil and climate, to the growth of other grain, the poor and lower classes pined away, nearly the half of their time, in want and hunger. It is now found, that, by keeping the potatoes in a cool place during the summer months, and checking the vegetation by frequent turning and stirring, they may be preserved sweet and sound, from one end of the year to the other; and thus, become a wholesome and cheap diet to the poor, and even, occasionally, add to the viands of the opulent in every season.

Sheep and Black Cattle—The hills and muirs, which, some years ago, were covered with heath and coarse herbage, are, since the introduction of large flocks of sheep into the country, gradually getting a richer sward and a greener hue, and afford excellent pasture. Every where they abound, with springs and rivulets of pure and salubrious water. Numerous flocks of large and heavy sheep, now pasture almost the whole year, on these mountains and wilds, where, formerly,

were

were to be found, and only for the summer months, a few light sheep and goats, small hill horses, as they were called, and some herds of black cattle. Then, it was believed, that no domestic animal could stand the severities of the winter on the high and stormy grounds: even the goats and sheep were regularly housed and fed in pens, during the rigour of the season. The consequence was often fatal. When the provender was consumed before the genial return of spring, cattle of all kinds perished in numbers for want of sustenance*. There may be about 20,000 sheep in the parish. A few of the Cheviot breed have been lately introduced into Glenorchay; and the Earl of Breadalbane, ever anxious to promote the interest of his country, and the good of the people, designs, it is said, to send some more of the same kind, to the parish, for trial. Black cattle have been, for years past, decreasing in number, but improving in kind. Two bulls, reared in the parish, were lately sold, the one at 19 l. the other at 20 l. Sterling. Horses, both for draught and saddle, are brought, occasionally, at high prices, from the south of Scotland, and other places noted for the best kinds of both.

Wood.—The higher parts of the parish abounded once, with forests of the largest and best pines; but these were cut down, about 60 years ago, by a company of adventurers from Ireland, with little benefit to themselves, and less to the noble proprietor of the country. There are still some tracts of natural firs in Glenorchay: a good deal of oak, intermixed with ash, birch, and alder. On the sides of Lochow, especially

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* A worthy gentleman, still alive in this parish, was present at the sale of 510 hides of black cattle, of all ages; which were the property of *one* ~~the~~ *laird*, and lost in one season, by mere want. This was in the year 1744. The hides sold for 50 l. to a Glasgow tanner.

at Hayfield, various kinds of wood; the larch, the beech, the horse chestnut, the mountain ash, the lime and the plane, are planted with taste, and grow with luxuriance and beauty. The climate is not favourable for orchards.

Exports and Imports.—The exports from the country are cattle, wool, woollen yarn, tartans, plaiding and ruffet. The imports are, about 1000 bolls of meal, merchant goods and cash. Exclusive of what is retailed by hawkers, there is sold, yearly, from one stationary shop in the parish, to the value of 60 l. Sterling, of snuff and tobacco. This is an expenditure that merits reprehension. Let the men, however, continue to do in this as they choose, but far be it from the fair and respectable females of this vale, to disfigure their features, and to destroy their powers of song and sweet cadence, by a habit so repugnant to every thing engaging and cleanly in woman. There is one licensed distillery in the parish; the effect of which is the destruction of great quantities of grain, that, in place of being converted into wholesome bread, produces only a deleterious spirit, ruinous to health, to industry, and to morals. If no spirits were distilled in the county, the meal imported would be a trifle. At an average, there is an annual importation of 40 thousand bolls into the shire.

Population and Longevity.—As no exact public registers were kept, the ancient state of the population of the parish cannot be ascertained with precision; but, it is the general belief, that the population is not materially different from what it was about 40 years ago. This conjecture is confirmed by the only investigation of the fact, that can now be made. At present, (1792,) the total number is 1669. The return to Dr. Webster in 1755 was 1654, the difference is therefore only 15. Of these there are of males, 783, of females, 886.

In this account, the inhabitants of Lorn, Furnace and Fanans are not included. Though the people, in general, attain to an advanced age, there are no late instances of extraordinary longevity in the parish. A circumstance happened a few years ago, which, it is believed, occurs but seldom any where. At a baptism in the parish, there were present, the child's *father* and *mother*, *grandfather* and *grandmother*, *great-grandfather* and *great-grandmother*; and the last pair are still so vigorous and healthy, as to make it probable, they may see the fifth generation of their family. They are all in the lower class of peasantry, contented with their lot, and chearful in their temper.

Diseases.—Colds and rheumatic disorders are the most prevalent diseases in the parish. Before inoculation was introduced, the small pox, in its visitations, proved very fatal. Then, the regimen was literally hot. At whatever season the infection appeared, great fires were kept burning in the rooms, or rather stoves, where often 2 or 3 wretched children lay gasping, under a weight of cloaths, in one bed. Every particle of fresh air was excluded with the utmost care; and whisky and saffron, and every thing heating, were administered with an unsparing hand. The consequence was such as might be expected. Numbers were hurried into an untimely grave; and of those that escaped with life, the loss of an eye, sometimes of both, with other ravages of the disorder, often marked a treatment so unnatural and so destructive. Eighteen years ago, a herd boy, a native of this parish, ran away from a farm in another country, where the measles made their appearance. He did not, however, escape the enemy he dreaded. He came to the parish school, and within the fifth day, the runaway, with 51 of the scholars, were laid up with the
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the distemper. It spread over the country in a short time; but contagious as it was, it was not mortal.

*Mountains, &c.**—There are many hills of different elevations and forms in the parish. Among these, Beindoran, Beinlaoi, and Cruachan, soar pre-eminently high. The last rises in a gentle slope from the sea, and the Lake of Aw; and by the measurement of the late Colonel Watson, with a quadrant, its perpendicular height is said to be 1130 yards above the level of the sea. The circumference of the mountain, at the base, is above 20 measured miles. Cruachan is the weather gauge of the people within view of its lofty summit. Before the storm, “the spirit of the mountain shrieks,” and its head and sides are enveloped in clouds. On the summit of this mountain, was that fatal spring, from which, according to the tradition of our fathers, issued forth the beautiful and extensive lake of Aw †.

Beindoran,

* Elevation of various Mountains above the level of the Sea.

| | Feet. |
|---|--------|
| Hartfield Hill, near Moffat, - - - | 2282 |
| Tintock, in Lanarkshire, - - - | 1644 |
| Beinmore, in Breadalbane, from its base, - - | 2064 |
| Bein Lawers, in Breadalbane, above Lochtay, - | 3588 |
| Ben nevis, in Lochaber, - - - | 4273 |
| Benlomond, above the Lake, - - - | 3240 |
| Skiddaw, in Cumberland, - - - | 4466 |
| Snowdon, in Wales, - - - | 3566 |
| Mount Blanc, in the Alps, - - - | 15,662 |
| Mount Ætna, - - - | 10,954 |
| Chimborazzo, South America, - - - | 20,460 |
| Teneriffe, - - - | 15,396 |
| Hecla in Iceland. - - - | 4,903 |

N. B. 1760 yards make a mile.

† “Bera the aged, dwelt in the cave of the rock. She was the daughter of
 “Griannan the Sage: Long was the line of her fathers, and she was the last
 “of

Beindoran, till lately, was the residence and sanctuary of the roe buck and mountain deer; but now, the hunter roams no longer on the hill of the chace; the sheep browse on the heath of the forest, and the sons of the mountains have deserted the inheritance of their race for ages, to revisit its springs, and glades, and secret haunts no more! Formerly, the wolf had his haunts in our wilds and mountains, and not only proved fatal to the cattle, but, when impelled by hunger, or inflamed with rage, he even, at times, made depredations on the human species. It is said, that, in the year 1680, the last wolf in Britain was killed by Sir Ewen Cameron of Lochiel.

Lakes, Rivers and Fish.—The parish extends nearly for 8 miles on each side of Lochow. This lake is, in length, about 30 measured miles, and at an average, about 3 quarters of a mile in breadth. It is about 36 yards above the level of the sea. Besides the intermediate rivers and hills, which run in-
to

" of her race. Large and fertile were her possessions: her's the beautiful vales
" below, and her's the cattle which roamed on the hills around. To Bera was
" committed the charge of that awful spring, which, by the appointment of
" Fate, was to prove so fatal to the inheritance of her fathers, and to her father's
" race.

" Before the sun should withdraw his beams, she was to cover the spring
" with a stone, on which sacred and mysterious characters were impressed. One
" night this was forgot by the unhappy Bera. Overcome with the heat and
" chace of the day, she was seized with sleep before the usual time of rest. The
" confined waters of the mountains burst forth into the plain below, and cover-
" ed that large expanse, now known by the name of *the Lake of Awe*. The third
" morning Bera awaked from her sleep. She went to remove the stone from the
" spring; but, behold, no stone was there! She looked to the inheritance of
" her tribe: She shrieked! The mountain shook from its base! Her spirit re-
" tired to the ghosts of her fathers, in their light and airy halls." OSSIAN.

Of this ill fated female, Mr. Stewart of Strachur, has given a very ingenious
account in the statistical history of his parish. See Vol. 4. P. 559.

to Lochow, it receives a considerable body of water at each extremity, and discharges itself laterally, into an arm of the sea at Runaw, after a turbulent series of cataracts for 3 miles. After a winding course of 14 miles, the river Urchay falls into Lochow, at the east end, about a mile below the parish church. The lake and river abound with salmon, char, trout and eels. The last is the abhorrence of almost all the common people in the highlands, who consider them as water serpents, and unfit for the use of man. Four miles below the church, at a place called Catnish, shoals of salmon are taken in the Urchay, by a simple but fatal device. A bold projecting rock crosses the bed of the river, nearly from side to side. Its height is such, that few fish can overleap the torrent; which, after rains, rushes forcibly into the pool below. Many salmon, in attempting to leap, fall into a *creel*, or basket, fixed transversely within the stream. But the great slaughter is effected in a more fraudulent manner. On the one side of the river there is an open, of the wideness of a mill-race, betwixt the rock and the bank. Here a wicker gate is fixed, that can be opened and shut at pleasure. Many yards above this entry, the stream is secured by a like barrier. When the water is high and turbid, the fish are let in below, and when the fisherman is satisfied with the numbers that have passed into his toils, he shuts the door of his prison; and, like a merciless executioner, he drags his prey with his spear, one after another on shore. Scores, at times, are thus destroyed in the course of a few hours. There are several other lakes and rivers, of lesser note, in the parish: all of them abounding with fine trout.

Roads and Bridges.—In no county has more been done, during the last 20 years, in constructing bridges, and forming useful lines of road, than in the shire of Argyll within that period,

period, besides what has been effected by the statute labour, and by a yearly assessment of above 600 l. Sterling on the valued rents, many expensive bridges and various lines of roads, have been completed by large subscriptions. Glenorchay is every where well accommodated with good roads and convenient bridges. The great military road from Stirling to Tayndrom and Inverary, passes through the parish, from one extremity almost to the other : as does also, for many miles, the military road, from Tayndrom to Fort-William. In the original formation of these roads, the obvious and proper line has not always been selected. The traveller often feels, to his cost, that *the road was brought to the gravel, and not the gravel to the road.* A more enlightened and liberal system of road-making is now adopted ; and, it is hoped, that the line will be altered from its present inconvenient acclivities and descents, wherever a more easy and level road can be formed. From the inn of Dalmaly, to the bridge of Aw, a very judicious alteration in the line of public road has been lately made, at the expence of above 400 l. Sterling. This beautiful line winds, for miles, through woods and dells, presenting such varied and agreeable views of water, of islands, of towering mountains, and sloping hills, as give an uncommon grandeur and sublimity to the landscape. Part of the road lies through a narrow defile, “ amidst such irregularities of nature, such deep chasms, and such impending rocks, as indicate some vast convulsions of the earth, to have happened at some remote period of time*.”

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Castles

* About a quarter of a mile below the mouth of the river Aw, in view of the road, and close by the water edge, is seen a huge stone, which, to a traveller of a humane and serious cast of mind, will afford matter of pleasing contemplation. A few years ago, in a cottage at the bottom of a steep hill, whose summit is one range of projecting rocks, a near and crashing noise was heard, resembling a clap of thunder. The cottager, from a window, beheld the face of the hill covered with

Castles and Monastery.—At the east end of Lochow, on a rocky point, projecting into the lake, are to be seen the fine ruins of *Castle Kilchurn*. The square tower, still of a castellated form, was built in 1440, by Sir Colin Campbell * Knight of Rhodes, and ancestor of the Breadalbane family. Successive additions were made to Castle Kilchurn, and part of it was garrisoned by the king's forces, in the year 1745, to secure the peace and tranquillity of the country. But now, this great mass of building is tumbling to the ground; presenting a monument of the mutability of earthly grandeur, and of the unavoidable decay of the most durable works of human art.

On a small island, not far from Castle Kilchurn, called *Fraoch-Elan* ‡, there are the ruins of a castle. In the year

1267,

with detached masses of rock, bounding with velocity, and flew towards his slender and ill constructed habitation. His wife had just gone out, and he heard her cries. A child stood at his knee, and another was asleep in a bed beside him. He sprung instantaneously to the door, with a child, as he thought, in each hand. Scarce had he crossed the threshold, when an enormous floor passed through his house, in the very place where he and his children were a moment before. He missed a child, and no longer heard the voice of his wife. He looked to the ruins of his hut; found his child alive and unhurt, in a corner where it had been thrust by the fragments of the bed and furniture, displaced by the rock in its course. In a little, the mother came to the scene. Their joy and gratitude were complete.

* Sir Colin was the second son of Argyll. His father gave him Glenorchy, with other valuable appendages for his patrimony. He was a man of high renown for his military prowess, and for the virtues of social and domestic life. He was "a stream of many tides against the foes of his people; but, like the gale that moves the heath, to those who sought his aid." His first lady was a daughter of the Earl of Angus. Her marriage dower was 600 merks, little more than 30 l. Sterling. As her father was dead, two noblemen, relations of the Angus family, granted a conjunct bond for the payment of the *tacher*. Sir Colin afterwards married one of the co-heiresses of Stewart, Lord Lorn, by which he acquired a great accession to his fortune.

‡ Fraoch-Elan was the *Hesperides* of this country. "The fair Mego longed for the delicious fruit of the isle, guarded by a dreadful serpent: Fraoch, who had

" long

1267, this little demesne, with its fortrefs, and some contiguous lands, were granted by King Alexander III. to Gilbert M'Naughtan, the chief of that clan, on condition that he should entertain the king whenever he passed that way. The fatal attempt of Fraoch is handed down, from age to age, in a beautiful Celtic tale, after the manner of Ossian the son of Fingal.—A translation of it, by the Rev. Dr. Smith of Campbellton, when a boy at college, is much and justly admired. There is another old ruinous castle at Auchallader, in the upper part of the parish,—a hunting seat of the Breadalbaue family, in the days of the chase; but, principally intended to restrain the incursions of such *marauders*, as might attempt, in those predatory times, to pillage and despoil the country. Near it, on the slope of a hill, a fatal conflict took place, about two centuries ago, betwixt two hostile clans. Various causes are assigned for this encounter. Several cairns, still visible on the heath, mark the place where the slain were interred.

In the island of Inishail, the remains of a small monastery, with its chapel, are still to be seen. Concerning this religious house, there is little on record, and tradition conveys but small information. It was a house of Nuns, memorable for the sanctity of their lives, and the purity of their manners. At the reformation, when the innocent were involved equally with the guilty, in the sufferings of the times, this house was suppressed, and the temporalities granted to Hay, the Abbot of Inchaffrey; who, abjuring his former tenets of re-

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ligion,

“ long loved the maid, goes to gather the fruit. By the rustling of the leaves,
 “ the serpent was awaked from his sleep. It attacked the hero, who perished in
 “ the conflict. The monster was also destroyed: Mego did not long survive
 “ the death of her lover *.”

* *Pennant's Tour.*

ligion, embraced the cause of the reformers. King James VI. erected Inchaffrey, into a temporal lordship, in his favour.

Clan M'Grigor—In Glenorchay, the chieftain of the clan M'Grigor, a numerous and potent tribe, had long his principal residence, and a freehold property. On an eminence, opposite to the parish church, still called *the Gallow Hill*, were executed all criminals, doomed to death in his courts of justice. The process was often summary, and the execution speedy. The sun, in its course of one day, beheld the culprit at large, apprehended, arraigned, adjudged, condemned, and brought to execution. In other criminal courts of those times, such procedure was not uncommon. A single act of M'Grigor's justice, however, is on traditional record. One of his retainers, who had intentionally put out the eye of a stranger, who had but one, was condemned to lose both his own, in retaliation for the malice. For the enormities of some individuals, during the minority of James VI. the whole clan were proscribed by act of parliament, as "*Lawless Limmers.*" The surname was, for ever suppressed; and, at baptism, no clergyman was to give the name of *Grigor*, under the penalty of banishment and deprivation. Happily those manners and times are no more! In our days, the innocent are not indiscriminately involved in the infamy and punishment of the guilty. An act so severe is repealed by a more enlightened legislature; and the clan M'GRIGOR, in possession of their name, and of every franchise of citizens, are as civilized, as peaceable, and as much distinguished for every virtue, as any of their fellow subjects in the kingdom.

Rent.—The rents of the parish have doubled, and, in some properties, have tripled within these 40 years; and yet, the situation of the tacksmen is, in general, much better than at
that

that period. This, particularly, is the case, with such as have obtained large pasture tenements on long leases. A lease for 19 or 20 years, is considered as the shortest, on which a tenant can venture, securely, to make any expensive efficient improvements upon his possession. In some places, it has been the impolitic practice of landlords, to let their grounds on short leases; a system, which, as it is discouraging and ruinous to the lessee, must eventually be injurious to the lessor.—Such is not the case in Glenorchay. The noble proprietor, as has uniformly been the laudable practice of the family, gives every reasonable encouragement to the tenant. He imposes no racked rents; he exacts no services; he grants no short leases; and, whilst he himself has adequate returns from his domains, he has the satisfaction to hear and see that his people prosper.—And surely, to every man of feeling, and real virtue, to contribute to the happiness of thousands, who earn and eat their bread under him, as the children of his family, and who, ungrudgingly bestow a great part of the fruit of their labours, in return for his protection and bounty, must, living and dying, afford a pleasure and peace of mind, unknown to the merciless and rapacious oppressor;—to him, whose exactions come stained with the sweat, and tears, and blood of those, who, by nature, are his brethren, and who, from situation, have more than a common claim to his humanity and protection.

The real rent of the united parish, may be from 3,000 l. to 4,000 l. Sterling.

Wages.—In all the operations of husbandry. and in every mechanic and domestic employment, the prices of labour have become, progressively, quadruple what they were 50 years ago. A man servant, fed in the family, earns annually, from 5 l. to 9 l.—A female, from 2 to 3 guineas. Still, the recom-
pense,

penfe, to this laft clafs of fervants, is more inadequate to their fervices than what is exa<ted by the former. Often, efpecially during winter, whilft the men pafs away the long evenings at their eafe, and without farthering the intereft of their employers, the bufy and confcientious houfe-maid is unremittingly engaged, in fome neceffary employment in the family. Let not their earnings then, advanced as they are, be grudged; but let all, who refpect the female character, and female utility, regret, that thefe earnings are often thrown away on the gewgaws of vanity and fafhion. Every man of humanity is pleafed to fee them clad in decent and fuitable apparel; but it is painful to obferve, that, what fhould be a fupport to their future families, and a provifion for ficknefs and old age, is mifapplied in the purchafe of filks, laces, lawns and tinfel! But the moralift may fpeculate on this female infirmity as he chufes; as far as the lafs has cash or credit, to procure *braws*, ſhe will, ſtep by ſtep, follow hard after what ſhe deems grand and fine in her betters *.

Inns.—There is an excellent inn in the parifh, at Dalmaly. No where in the highlands has more attention been paid to the accommodation of the traveller, than on the property of Lord Breadalbane. In a line of public road, of above 90 miles in length, extending from Inveraray to Perth, good inns, with fuitable offices, are built, at proper ſtages, and kept in repair, at confiderable expence, by his lordſhip †. Care alfo is taken to find inn-keepers qualified for their charge, and of civil and obliging deportment to their employers.—And to enable them to provide feaſonably for their gueſts, farms, on eaſy terms, are annexed to the different ſtages.

Minerals,

* The prices of viands, and wages of Artificers here, are the ſame as thoſe already published in the ſtatistical accounts of the county.

† Viz. at Dalmaly, Teyndrom, Killin, Kenmore and Amilree.

Minerals and Indigenous Plants.—On the confines of the parish a lead mine had been wrought for many years, by means of a level. The 6th of the product, in bars of lead, from the smelting mill, was the proportion allowed to the proprietor by the mining company. It has not been wrought for two years back. In several hills of this parish, there are appearances of lead ore. Cobalt, talc, asbestos, and a beautiful jasper, have been found in small masses, among our rocks and mountains. By an act of the Scotch parliament, in the year 1424, the mine was declared royal, and to belong to the king, when 3 halfpennies of silver could be fined from the pound of lead. Limestone of good quality, is quarried in various parts of the parish. Many indigenous herbs, which, combined with whisky, formed of old, a great part of the Highlander's *materia medica*, are now gone much into disuse; Valerian, Tussilago, Althea, All-heal, Liver-wort, Plantain, Eye-bright, and wild carrot are found in abundance.

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Well of St. Connan.—There are no mineral springs in the parish. A quarter of a mile eastward from the inn of Dalnaly, and near the parish school, is the well of St. Connan; memorable for the lightness and salubrity of its water. St. Connan was the tutelar saint of the country. He lived, it is said, near the well, and he blessed the spring. On a little eminence hard by, in a humble cot, there dwelt, about 20 years ago, a poor old man, principally supported by the well of St. Connan. The whole day he sat, generally at the door of his cot, ready to give the passengers a drink from his favourite spring, for which he received some small consideration. It is incredible what quantities he himself daily drank, for the space of 44 years, that he lived near the well. He never had a complaint: he arrived at the age of 85 or 86 years, in the exercise of
all

all his mental faculties. The evening before he died, he was seen drinking at the well, as usual; but, though his practice had prevented disease, it could not save him from the hand of death. He retired to his cell, and in the morning was found dead in his bed. A few shillings, sufficient to defray the expence of interment, were got, in an old rag beside him. He exacted a promise of the minister of the parish, that no man, after him, should occupy the hut. About this, he discovered an anxiety, not to be accounted for. The day he was buried, the hut was demolished. It would not, indeed, have been easy to have found a new occupant, for the whole inside of this solitary habitation was lined with the fragments of coffins, brought from the church-yard, year after year, as repairs were needed.

Church.—The church of Glenorchay, outwardly, appears a decent building. Within, though far from elegant, it is neither uncomfortable nor incommodious. Its situation is commanding, and central for the people. It is to be regretted, that places appropriated to the public worship of God, should not be rendered suitable to a service so sacred and so important. The magnificent temples of the heathen world indicated a becoming reverence for the objects of their worship. The church of Rome, the church of England, and the several separatists from our own establishment, are careful to have such places, as are consecrated to the service of the Universal Parent, made decent and comfortable: whilst, with us of the church of Scotland, many of our country kirks, are such dark, damp, and dirty hovels, as chill and repress every sentiment of devotion. They, besides, endanger the health of every class of worshippers, and encourage the indifferent and the indolent, in their neglect of institutions, with the stated observance of which, moral obligation itself, and the public and private happiness of man, are so much and so immediately connected.

To the honour, however, of all classes of people in this country, it may be said, with justice, that no where are the ordinances of religion more respected or better attended. Persons of the most cultivated understanding, and of the first rank in society, are not ashamed to join in the public offices of devotion. Here, cold and cruel infidelity has not yet reared her baneful banner. Here, “the rich and the poor meet together” in the house of God. Public worship is alternately performed at the churches of Glenorchay and Inishail, (or Innildrynich,) 5 measured miles from each other. For the benefit of the people, in the conjoined extremities of the parishes of Glenorchay and Killin, the late Lady GLENORCHAY, in concurrence, and with the aid of the Earl of Breckinridge, established a perpetual mission, with suitable appointments to the incumbent. This was a humane and necessary institution, and will remain a lasting monument of the piety and beneficence of the noble foundress, when the millions squandered in dissipation are gone, without leaving one consoling thought to their former possessor, or entailing honour on his name, as the benefactor and friend of man. By act of parliament, the two farms of Ichrachan and Phanans are annexed, *quoad sacra*, to the parish of Muckairn, as “*maist ewart* thereto.” And for the same reasons, the three farms of Leatters, Corries and Drisshaig, are disjoined from Ardchattan, and annexed *quoad sacra*, to Glenorchay. In the records of the synod of Argyll, there is an abstract of this act of designation and annexation.

Stipend, Patron and Heritors.—The living is 67 bolls of meal, and 43l. 6s. 8d. Sterling in money, exclusive of a manse, and two glebes, containing from 16 to 20 acres, mostly arable. The minister enjoys the privilege of pasturing 8 cows, the whole year, if he chooses, on 4 contiguous farms. To this may be added, the convenience and advantages which the

minister enjoys, from the possession of a small adjacent farm, which the family of Breadalbane have continued on easy terms, for time immemorial, to the successive incumbents of the parish. Without some such tenement for supplying the necessaries of life, the situation of the minister of an inland highland parish, far from markets, and with a numerous family, would often be very distressing. It is but justice to say, that it has been the general practice of both the noble families of ARGYLL and BREADALBANE, in almost all the parishes connected with them, to do every thing kind and reasonable for the comfortable accommodation of their ministers. This testimony of acknowledgment, the present incumbent of Glenorchay and Inishail owes also to his other heritors, who are 5 in number, viz. Campbell of Lochnell, Campbell of Monzie, M'Dougall of Hayfield, Campbell of Combie, and Lindsay of Boccaird. The Duke of Argyll is patron.—In no part of the kingdom has patronage been exercised with more marked attention to the heritors and people of a parish, than in this country. Violent settlements are not known in our bounds. The rights of patronage and of law are therefore respected by the people †.

Schools,

† The following singular fact is the only instance to the contrary. At the revolution, when presbytery was last re-established in North Britain, a Mr. Dugald Lindsay was the Episcopal minister of Glenorchay. Mr. Lindsay would not conform. Pressed by the synod of Argyll, the noble proprietor of the country reluctantly wrote a letter of invitation to a presbyterian probationer, in the shire of Perth, to be minister of Glenorchay. He accepted; came on the close of a week to the parish, but could find no house to receive him, or person to make him welcome. In his distress, he was drove to the house of the man whom he came to supplant, and was received with a cordiality and kindness, becoming a minister of the gospel. Over the whole parish, there was a strong ferment. People of all ages and conditions assembled, from all quarters, in the church-yard, on Sabbath, long before the usual hour of worship. At the appearance of the stranger, accompanied by their own pastor, there was a general

rumor

Schools.—The school of Glenorchay has long been in great repute, and is well attended. Besides the natives, many children, both from the East and West Indies, have been, from time to time, sent for their elementary education to this seminary; where, freed from that contagion of vice and bad example, which too often corrupts the morals of the youth in towns, they form early habits of virtue, and acquire a hardiness and vigour of constitution, less common at their years, in warmer climates. Many of those, who, in the early period of life, have been brought up at this school, have become distinguished as useful professional men, in the various situations of society. The salary of the master is 15 l. paid by Lord Breadalbane; which, with other fixed and contingent emoluments, makes the total income, at an average, to be better than 40 l. a year. During winter, the scholars amount to 100, and then an assistant is employed: and even in the summer months, when many of the poorer children are obliged to leave school and go to service, the number attending is seldom under 60.

The office of a schoolmaster is an useful and laborious employment. It is a pity, that the encouragement to this class of men, should in general, be so inadequate to their utility,

Y y 2

and

murmur of indignation. Twelve armed men, with drawn swords, surrounded the astonished intruder. Two bagpipes sounded the *March of Death*. Unmoved by the tears and remonstrances of Mr. Lindsay, in this hostile and awful form, they proceeded, with their prisoner, to the boundary of the parish, and of the country. There, on his bended knees, he solemnly engaged never more to enter the parish, or trouble any person for the occurrences of that day. He was allowed to depart in peace, and he kept his promise. The Synod of Argyll were much incensed. Time cooled their ardour. The proprietor was indulgent, Mr. Lindsay deserving, and the people loved him. He continued in the undisturbed possession of his charge till his death, more than 30 years after the foregoing event.

and to their labours. In most parishes, though it is by no means the case in this, the winnings of a common servant greatly exceed the income of men, whose employments expose them to much waste of health and spirits; to much hunger and cold, and to much censure; men too, many of them possessed of learning and cultivated minds, and by means of whom, the first principles of morals and of science are communicated to millions. Dr. SAMUEL JOHNSON, Dr. BEATTIE of Aberdeen, and the learned Mr WALTER RUDDIMAN, with many others of the most distinguished characters, in the liberal professions, once earned their poor pittance of support, in such employments *.

There is a school for teaching girls sewing, &c. established also in the country, by the honourable Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, with a competent salary: and there is another small school in the parish of Inishail, very poorly endowed, though the assessment on the valued rent, to form a salary, is more than common in such cases. Although we are a peaceful people, fencing masters come occasionally to the bounds, to instruct us in the art of defence: and masters of manners also do us the favour, from time to time, to teach us "the graces—the graces †."

Poor.—The poor in this united charge are numerous; amounting at times, to 60: and many of them, the aged, the fatherless, the widow, and the bed-ridden. Besides occasional supplies, there is a stated summer and winter distribution, to the amount of 24l. or 26l. a year. This sum arises from 160l. of mortified money; from the collections at church, and from small fines imposed for immoralities in the parish.

Hitherto

* In 1500, the learned HECTOR BORTHUIS, the first principal of King's college Aberdeen, had but 40 marks salary, about 2l. 4s. 5d. Sterling.

† Chenevield's Letters.

Hitherto, no assessments, (such as the law authorises in urgent cases,) have been exacted. Such of the poor as can, and choose, are allowed to beg, without restriction. And, indeed, whilst, the indigent are so many, and the funds to support them so disproportionate to their wants, it would be cruel and oppressive to controul them. It is but justice to the humanity of the people of the parish to declare, that they never refuse to extend their charity to the needy mendicant, whether a stranger or a native. About 20 years ago, a stranger, with his family, came to reside in the parish. By accident, his house and his all were destroyed by fire. A collection was made for them at the church doors, which amounted to 21 l. and 3 pence sterling. No heritors were resident at the time. On this occasion, even the cottage widow, cheerfully, "threw her two mites, into the treasury of the temple *."

Fuel.—The fuel, principally used in the parish, is peat. The present partial and impolitic duty on coals, together with the
 expence

* It is a just remark, that "the proper regulation of the poor, as it is one of the most important, so it is also one of the most difficult circumstances of police: that a scanty supply, or a rigid execution of the penal statutes against mendicants, compels many miserable creatures to suffer all the wretchedness of poverty; while a liberal provision, indiscriminately bestowed, encourages idleness, and ultimately terminates in profligacy, and vice &c." From a perusal of the Scotch acts of parliament relating to the poor, it appears, that no pauper has a legal claim to be maintained by any parish, unless he was born there, or had his residence in it for the last 3 years, previous to his application. In the year 1781. one Waddle, a day-labourer, came to the parish of Hutton, having in his family a son upwards of 20 years of age, who had been paralytic from his birth. He applied to have this son put on the poor's roll; but was refused. No legal methods being taken to remove Waddle out of the parish, he continued in it for three years; after; then applied to the sheriff, to have his son enrolled for a weekly supply from the parish funds. This the sheriff ordered, and the Court of Session affirmed his sentence §.

‡ Dr. Macfarlan's *Inquiries concerning the Poor.* § Acts of Sederunt.

expence of land and water carriage, put it out of the power of the many to enjoy the comfort of coal fires, even in the worst of seasons. And the sufferings of the lower classes, with respect to firing, in wet years, during the rigour of winter, can only be conceived by such as have felt them. A few years ago, many poor people in the West Highlands were obliged to burn most of their household furniture, to repel the cold and to prepare their food. Old people and young children, unable to bear the cold, were mostly confined to bed.

Migratory Birds.—Our migratory birds are the cuckow, the lapwing, the swallow, and the woodcock. In severe winters, the swan visits our lakes for a few weeks; and, though a wary and watchful bird, it is not uncommon to see it fall a prey to the arts of the sportsman. The Bohemian chatterer, a bird of a most beautiful plumage and striking conformation, was taken, last season, in this country.

Eagles.—Premiums are given in this, and in many other parishes, for the extirpation of the mountain eagle. Yet still, this bird of prey, so destructive to kids, lambs, and game, is common in our wilds and deserts. The eagle has either lost much of its former audacity and strength, or the many traditions respecting its assaults on the young and defenceless, even of the human kind, are fabulous and unfounded*.

This

* There is a tradition current in the Isle of Man, that a live infant, found in the *aerie* of an eagle, was brought to the proprietor of the island; who, having no children of his own adopted this fortunate foundling, and bequeathed him his possessions. The same authority asserts, that this child was the ancestor of the Stanley family. In the genealogical history of that noble house, there is no allusion to this legendary pedigree, although the impression of an eagle and child, on the coin of the Isle of Man, is probably owing to some such circumstance.

This bird is remarkable for its longevity. Mr. Keyser relates, that an eagle died at Vienna, after a confinement of 104 years.

Character of the People.—The inhabitants of this parish have, from time immemorial, been marked, for peculiar regularity of conduct, and decency of manners. They are, in general, sober, industrious and humane; courteous, peaceable, and contented.—They are all of the established church, and attend the public institutions of religion, with becoming attention and decorum. Here are no religious controversies to agitate the human mind; to hurt the best feelings of the heart, and to render men fierce, injurious, and uncharitable to one another. Enormous crimes are unknown in this place*. Law suits occur but seldom. The little differences, that arise occasionally among neighbours, are settled either by the good

* The Lowland people, who have long believed, that every Highlander lived by plunder and rapine, will hardly credit, that there is perhaps less thievery and picking in the Highlands, than in any part of the King's dominions. In feudal times, and before the operation of law in the remote parts of the kingdom, there was a general system of depredation, too prevalent in many Highland countries. But, as this was, often, only a retaliation for similar injuries, and patronised by the heads of clans at variance with one another, it subjected the *spoiler*, neither to punishment nor disgrace. Impelled by hunger, the starving Highlander was indeed tempted, at times, to purloin subsistence from the folds of the wealthy: but, on all occasions, he avoided the cattle of the poor, with a scrupulous and humane attention.

Mac-JAN, *alias* KENNEDY, after the defeat of the unfortunate *Charles Stuart*, at Culloden, watched over him, with inviolable fidelity for weeks, and even robbed, at the risque of his life, for his support, at the very time that he himself and his family were in a state of starvation, and that he knew he could gain 30,000 l. by betraying his guest. This poor man was afterwards executed at Inverness for stealing a cow. A little before his execution, he took off his bonnet, and thanked God, "that he had never betrayed trust, never injured the poor," and never refused a share of what he had to the stranger and needy." It is said,

good offices of a justice of the peace, who resides in the parish, or by Lord Breadalbane's Chamberlain, or Steward, when he comes to the country : and the small fines that are, at times, imposed for misdemeanours, are generally paid to the kirk-treasurer for behoof of the poor of the parish.

The superior class of tacksmen live in commodious and decent houses, in the enjoyment of the comforts of life, with order, neatness, and hospitality : and even the middling and lower ranks of the peasantry live in a style of plenty and cleanliness, very different from that of their predecessors. Formerly, indeed, much of that time, which is now spent in useful industry, or in acquiring mental improvement, was passed in indolence, in the favourite chace, or in listening to the captivating "tales of other times."

A strict attention to credit, and a marked punctuality in discharging every money engagement, has long characterised,

even

said, King George II. was much moved, when he heard of the fate of Mac-lan; and declared, that if he had known the circumstances in proper time, he would have put him in a situation, in which he would not have been tempted to steal a cow for subsistence. The Chevalier had ordered him a little money, but Mac-lan never received it.—At Iaveraray, there has not been a single criminal executed these 42 years !

At a period not very remote, an awful retribution quickly followed an act of singular intemperance in this parish. A military party marching through the country in a hot summer day, some of the men broke into a *feasting*, and used an unwise freedom with a churn-full of cream they found in the hut. One man, tempted with the richness of the feast, would neither be persuaded to moderation, nor to retire with his fellow depredators. Afraid, however, of being reported to his superior, he ran hard to overtake his party. Humanity throws a veil over the shocking fate of this unfortunate spoiler. He was buried near the road, and his grave inculcates a lesson of honesty, chastened gratification and moderation, on all who behold it, and know the occasion. He was ~~not~~ a Highlander.

even the poorest villager of the country. The simple promise of the poor to pay, without any other obligation, will, generally, procure from those who know them, the loan of money in their straits, and family necessities from the shop-keeper.

Such is the state of this united parish; and such the general character of the people in it. May no future Statistical writer, in his accounts of either, have ever cause to give a worse representation of them !

NUMBER XIX.

PARISH OF CRIECH.

(County of Sutherland.—Presbytery of Dornoch.—Synod of
Sutherland and Caithness.)

By the Rev. Mr. GEORGE RAINY.

Name, Situation and Extent.

THE etymology of Criech is not perfectly known; it may signify the *bounding* parish, as it is the boundary betwixt Sutherland and Ross for a great way. It may also signify the *parish of woods or trees*. There is still a great deal of wood in it; but there was formerly much more; and some of the woods, being seen from the low country, may have given the name to the parish.—This, however, is but conjecture.

The parish is of very great extent. It is, perhaps, one of the largest in Scotland, running from E. to W. or N. W. from within 4 computed miles of the burgh of Dornoch on the E., to a few miles of the church of Affint, the parish on the W. coast. The length of it from E. to W. inhabited, is reckoned 24 computed miles; but the utmost bounds of the parish

parish stretch far into the hills and moors, lying between *Criech* and the parish of *Eddrachylis*, and may be reckoned upwards of 40 measured miles. The breadth of the parish is very unequal. In some places it is but 2 miles broad: in some 5, and in the top of the parish, it may be from 5 to 10 miles broad, and upwards. The parish of *Criech* lies on the N. of the Kyle or Frith of *Tain*, and the river *Ockel*. The Kyle flows about 11 miles above the church of *Criech*: The river *Ockel*, discharging itself into the Kyle, separates it from the parish of *Kincardine* for 10 miles. The parish of *Criech* lies opposite to the parish of *Kincardine*, but stretches about six miles farther eastward, opposite to the parish of *Eddertown*, separated from these parishes by the Kyle and the river *Ockel*. Its length may be seen to be very great, from examining any common map of Scotland.

Soil.—The soil of the parish is light and thin, except in the E. end of it, where there is deep loam; and some meadows on the Kyle, and the sides of rivers in the top of it. The arable land mostly lies on the Kyle side, on a hard gravel. In many places the gravel, when dug and mixed with dung, proves excellent manure. As the soil is thin, and lies exposed to the south, the harvest is in general very early, much more so, than in the low country, or in places farther to the south. There are hills and moors back from the Kyle, where the tenant's cattle are pastured in summer. The hills, for the most part, are covered with heath, with many interjacent spots of green grass, especially near small rivulets. The face of the parish is hilly. Perhaps, not a thirtieth part of the parish is cultivated.

Climate and Disasters.—The climate is very various. In the east end of the parish, it is as temperate as on the coast of *Sutherland*. While the weather is dry and good in the east

end, it may be stormy and very wet in the west part, where the hills are high and large. A difference of climate commonly takes place every 5 miles, the one farthest west being the worst; but even here some exception is to be observed. If the wind blows from the W. for any time, there is often rain in the east end of the parish, and if it blows from the E. there may be dry weather in the W., and *vice versa*. Sometimes the crop has sooner been ripe, cut down and got in, in the west part of the parish than in the east.

The climate, in general, is healthy, yet there have not been many examples of longevity for the last 20 years, though many live till they are past 70, and some till 80: there is one living at present 80, and another 84. Epidemical fevers sometimes occur, and prove mortal, according to the season of the year in which they take place. When fevers happen, they commonly spread, occasioned, perhaps, from the custom that prevails, of the neighbours coming to visit the sick persons, and staying long with them. If a person is sick, and there is appearance of danger, it is usual to see the small apartment crowded with neighbours and friends, many of whom must catch the infection. The rheumatism is become much more common of late than formerly. Several have been cut off by the consumption, and there are several persons now labouring under the cancer. The small pox and measles have sometimes proved very fatal. Inoculation for the small-pox has scarce been practised in this parish. A few have been inoculated this very spring for the small-pox, which have proved of the most favourable kind. It is difficult to say, to what the frequency of the rheumatism is to be ascribed. The people now are as well lodged, clothed and fed, as their forefathers. No difference in their diet has taken place for a considerable time past, except that the people live more on potatoes for a great part of the year; which, however, are esteemed

esteemed wholesome food. This parish, especially the west end of it, lies at a great distance from all medical assistance.

Rivers, Fish and Lakes.—The rivers in this parish are the *Shin* and the *Calsly*, and the upper part of the parish is separated from that of Kincardine, by the river *Ockel*. The *Shin* issues from *Lochshin* in the parish of *Lairg*. It falls into the *Kyle*, or *Frith of Tain*, at *Invershin*, 5 miles above the church of *Criech*. The salmon on the river *Shin* are very large, and, after being on the river for some time, turn brackish. At an average, a salmon barrel contains about 20 or 30. There is, on this river, a cascade of a considerable height, and a deep pool below, into which the water falls from the rock. The fish, leaping to get over the cascade, fall back into a *creel*, or basket, and are killed. Most of the fish were in use to be caught in this way. The cascade is called *the Linn*. Cruives are erected this season on the river, which runs from N. to S. The length of the river from the S. to the *Kyle*, is about 5 miles. The *Calsly*, issuing from the hills on the north west of the parish, runs S. and falls into the *Kyle* at *Roschall*. The salmon on this river are small and white, and very tender. The river *Ockel* issues in part from the high hill of *Or-bein-mor-Assint*, whence it runs eastward, and falls into the *Kyle*, near the place where the *Calsly* joins it. The salmon on this river are large and good. There are trouts in all of those waters. The fishermen can easily distinguish the salmon of all these rivers, as well as of other two that fall into the *Kyle*, from those of the *Kincardine* side. There are several lakes in the parish that abound in trouts, some of which are of a very good quality. The largest lakes are *Loch-migdol* and *Loch-elst*, each about 2 measured miles long. There are many others of a lesser size.

Mineral

Mineral Springs, &c.—There is only one mineral spring, which is near Rosehall, and rises within a few paces of the Kyle. It is impregnated with sulphur or iron, and it has been but little used, as it smells rank. There are traces of an iron work having been carried on in the hill immediately above it; and in the burn or rivulet above it, there is a vein of manganese. This vein, as far as yet discovered, is but small, but said to be of an excellent quality. Some of it has been examined by persons skilled in those matters.

Hills.—The whole parish is hilly.—A ridge of hills runs parallel to the Kyle, except where it is intercepted by rivers. The highest hill is in the western extremity of the parish, called *Beinmore Affint*, one part of which is in the parish of Cricch, and the other side in the parish of Affint. Its sides are covered with grass and daisies. In some places it is very rocky, but affords excellent pasture for sheep, all the year round, except in winter.

Woods.—There is a great quantity of natural wood in this parish, consisting chiefly of oak and birch; but there is every probability, that there was much more formerly. Several oak woods have been cut down within these 30 years, some of them about ten years ago, and have yielded a large quantity of excellent bark. Some old oak woods have been cut down, and no under-growths have sprung up in their stead; but several young woods have been cut lately, and are growing again and in a thriving state. There are also considerable plantations of firs in different parts of the parish. The largest is at Rosehall, facing the S., of great extent, and in a very thriving condition.

Moss.—There is a great quantity of moss in the different hills and moors, much of it of excellent quality; and the
most

most part of the parish is well supplied with fuel from thence, except perhaps a few places lying at the greatest distance from the moor, and where the roads are very bad. In many moorlands, there are roots of old fir trees dug up, which serve for light in the winter nights. From this, it would appear that the hills have formerly been covered with fir. Often large fir trees quite fresh and sound, and of considerable length, have been dug up, and when split, they are useful for rafters in building houses, and last very long.

Sea Weed.—There is very little sea weed for manuring the land. A very little kelp is made once in three years, on the shore of one estate. However, the small short sea weed is of use for feeding cattle in winter, and is reckoned very wholesome.

Black Cattle.—There is a great number of black cattle in the parish, every small tenant having his proportion, generally as many as his provender can support during the winter, if he is not in straitened circumstances. In that case, he takes cattle from others, who have more than they can feed, at the rate of 2s., 2s. 6d., or 3s., through the winter and spring, as provender is plentiful or scarce. The black cattle are mostly of a small hardy kind, and may now, at an average, fetch, when sold to drovers, from 2l. 10s. to 3l. Sterling. Some cattle, belonging to gentlemen, are of a larger size, and greater value, and may be a mean of mending the breed of cattle among the common people. The people depend principally on the black cattle for paying their rents.

Horses and Sheep.—The number of horses was taken a few years ago, and all the horses, young and old, amounted to 1531. There are several farms in the west end of the parish
stocked

stocked with sheep. The number of sheep may amount to upwards of 4000, and is increasing. These sheep farms have diminished the number of inhabitants, as well as the number of black cattle and horses. The best of the wool sells at 12s. the stone, 21 lbs. Scotch to the stone. Most of the small tenants have a few sheep of a small size, and badly woolled. Their wethers, when fat, sell at 5 s. 6 d. and 6 s. 6 d. and fold some years ago at 3 s. 4 d. and 4 s. The sheep belonging to the small tenants, it is thought, suffer from their bad management. They put them up in a small hut, just large enough to contain their number, both summer and winter. This, in all probability, hurts them.

Population.—The return to Dr. Webster, of the state of the population, in 1755, was 1705. The number of the inhabitants on the whole, is much the same that it was 20 or 30 years ago, being in some places less, and in others more numerous than formerly. In the year 1772-3, several emigrated to America. Some farms have been conjoined, and a considerable number of inhabitants have been removed out of grounds turned into sheep walks. By all these means, the number of people have been considerably diminished in the western division of the parish; but in the eastern they are more numerous than before. The total number of catechisable persons, or those above 7 years of age, in spring 1791, came to 1384; so that adding the usual proportion of $\frac{1}{4}$, the total population may be stated at 1730 souls. There are very few bachelors, as the men, in general, marry young. There are very few married persons without children. The medium of children in each family is 5 or 6. The number of small tenants, eastward from the river Shin, for 9 computed miles, is about 150, besides people who have small crofts.

Rents

Rent, Cultivation and Proprietors.—The valued rent of the parish is 2983 l. Scotch. The real rent may be upwards of 900 l. Sterling. The rent of the several salmon fishings, on the rivers and frith, may amount to 140 l. Sterling. Much of the arable land is dear. In some parts of the parish, the sowing of a boll of bear, (something more than a Scotch acre,) pays 1 l. Sterling. In many places the ground is fit only for small black oats, of which three crops are taken on such land, and then it is allowed to rest for 3, 4, or 5 years, after which it is cropped again. Very few experiments have been made, to ascertain how lime would answer with such ground. There are 8 proprietors in the parish, of whom only 1 resides constantly. One gentleman pays of rent 120 l. Sterling. One sheep farm is rented at 130 l.; but the majority of farms are possessed by small tenants.

Crops and Produce.—The chief crops are barley, white oats, small black oats, potatoes, and a very small quantity of pease. The oats are commonly sown in the last week of March, and beginning of April; in the few large farms, the oats are sown sooner, if the weather permits. They usually sow bear in the beginning of May. The people here are come into the practice of cultivating potatoes to a considerable amount, and find their account in it; they raise as many potatoes, as, at an average, may be sufficient to supply the place of bread for four or five months in the year. Some have them until June, and they commonly begin to use them the last week of August, and sometimes sooner. They have proved of the greatest benefit to this district. Even when victual is very scarce, and there is a great demand for bread, as soon as the potatoes are fit for food, the demand stops instantly. The parish produces, in tolerably good years, rather more victual than would be sufficient for supplying itself.—There are

fruit trees only in three or four gardens, which produce plentifully in some years.

Ecclesiastical State.—There is not one person in this parish, who does not belong to the established church. There was a missionary minister settled for upwards of 25 years, in the heights of the parishes of Criech and Kincardine, who preached every third Sabbath in the high grounds of Creech. He had a salary of 25*l.* Sterling, from his majesty's royal bounty, and of 7*l.* Sterling from the parishes. Fifteen computed miles of the parish of Criech were under this mission; but it was discontinued, and the salary removed, at Whitunday 1789, by the Committee for managing the royal bounty, on account (as was said,) of the deficiency of the Society's funds; although the Committee had no other missionary in the bounds of the presbyteries of Dornoch or Tain, and although the extent of these two parishes, contiguous to each other in two different presbyteries, the number of the inhabitants, and their eager desire for the means of instruction, and for having the ordinances of the gospel administered among them, (on which they punctually attend,) pled loudly for the continuance of the mission. This would have been a great hardship on the people, as well as on the ministers of their parishes, had not the knowledge of the case excited the compassion and sympathy of Lady Rofs Baillie; who, out of her own liberality, has appointed a permanent mission in this extensive district, with a better salary than was afforded by the Committee; together with large accommodations, that will render the station sufficiently comfortable.

The stipend of the established minister is 72 bolls of victual, one half oat meal and the other half bear; 25*l.* Sterling in money, and 1*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* Sterling for grass. The decret was obtained for the stipend in 1708. The parish can bear a great augmentation

augmentation, which is much needed, and it is hoped will be granted; living being now more than doubled, even in this corner, since the time this stipend was fixed. A new manse was built in 1780; and the church was built last Summer and is now finished.

Poor.—There are no funds for the poor, but the collections made at church, which are small and pitiful indeed, amounting only to 4l. or 5l. Sterling a year, and a very little for dues of the mort-cloth. The number of the poor on the roll, in the east division of the parish, is 37, and in the west 23; in all 50. They can scarce get more than what is necessary to buy shoes to them: Very few, however, of this number go about begging. Most of them earn in harvest and otherwise, as much as is necessary to support them; they commonly get, from some friend or neighbour, a little land for potatoes, which is of great service to them. If a person is quite poor, and unable to work at all, or diseased, the neighbours send in what is nearly sufficient; or some friend goes about among the tenants, and gets supplies for such an object. On very extraordinary emergencies, a collection is raised in the church.

Scarcity in 1783-4.—This parish, like others in the neighbourhood, was in great distress in Summer 1783 and 1784, especially in 1783. None however died for want. On several estates, the heritors procured victual to their tenants from time to time; the victual, sent by government, was distributed among most of the families of the parish. The poor were singularly indebted to a gentleman in Glasgow, of uncommon benevolence, who had lived in the parish when a boy, and who sent money, and five bolls of white pease, which were distributed among upwards of 80 persons, in proportion to their necessity. Some few removed with their families to the

shores abounding with cockles, &c. which were uncommonly plentiful that season, and supported them for some time. By these means the lives of the people were providentially preserved.

Ferries and Roads.—There are no bridges in this parish; but there are 4 or 5 ferries between it and that of Kincardine, which are crossed by *cobbles*, or yawls, and boats, that can ferry over two horses each, or more. The people in this parish and neighbourhood, have been amused from time to time with the hopes, that a bridge was to be built over the Kyle, at Culrain, about four miles above the church of Criech, at the expence of government. It would be of great advantage to the inhabitants of this district in particular, besides the emolument that would accrue to the community at large, if the public road around the ferries were brought this way by a bridge. Such a bridge would be particularly convenient for drovers; all the cattle driven to the south from Sutherland, Caithness, and Lord Reay's country, except the parish of Affint, having hitherto been obliged to cross the Kyle by swimming; which, when the weather is bad, and the Kyle much swelled by rains, hurts the cattle greatly, especially when the night following proves cold. Sometimes they refuse to swim, in which case they must be ferried over by the cobble. The people pretend to foretell, whether they shall have a good market or not, by their readiness to swim. The roads, in this extensive parish, are very bad; statute work is but seldom performed, which may be owing to this circumstance, that few heritors reside in it. The roads might easily be made good, as the bottom is hard and gravelly.

Antiquities.—Near the church, there is an obelisk, or high stone, 8 feet long and 4 feet broad, marked distinctly with the sign

sign of the cross. According to tradition, a Danish chief was interred here. On the top of the Dun of Criech, a hill of a great height above the level of the sea, and rather jetting out into the Frith, there are the remains of a rampart. The walls have been cemented with a vitrified stuff, something similar to the refuse of iron in a smith's forge. The cement is as hard as a rock. It is said, that this rampart was begun to be built, in the 12th century, by a *Paul M' Tier*, a branch of the noble family of Rosa. At the top of the Kyle, there is an old castle, supposed to have been a place where justice was formerly administered. This conjecture derives some plausibility from the name of the hill opposite to it, which is called *Casrur na Croike, The bill of the gibbet* *.

Character.—The people, for the most part, are regular and orderly, and behave inoffensively, and many of them in an exemplary manner †. It cannot indeed be said, that they are industrious, nor do they enjoy what would much prompt them thereto, as there are no manufactures carried on here. But what they want in point of industry, they make up by frugality. In some places, *whisky drinking* is rather too common, which is not easily avoided; as they are often employed in buying and selling cattle, and making other bargains, in the neighbourhood of several distilleries. Only one person has suffered for a capital crime within these 20 years; viz. for theft and house-breaking.

Disadvantages.

* The names of places are almost all derived from the Gaelic. Some of them have references to combats betwixt the clans, as *Tudastarblack, plentiful fall*; *Darecha, the end of the battle, &c.*

† The common people all speak Gaelic; but many can speak and understand English.

Disadvantages.—A local disadvantage, which the western division of the parish labours under, is, that, as much of the arable land and meadows lie along the sides of the Kyle, and the other rivers, they are subject to inundations every season of the year. The want of manufactures is a disadvantage, under which this parish formerly laboured, in common with the most of this country; though now, by the exertions of a respectable proprietor in the parish, a new scene is beginning to open itself to our view. To that circumstance it was in a great measure owing, that the people were not so industrious, as otherwise they would have been. Young lads, in the spring and summer, usually went in great numbers to the south, in search of employment. There, they got high wages, and returned in winter to their parents, or relations, somewhat in the style of *gentlemen*, and were a burden on their friends the whole winter, until they set out again in spring. Some of them married in the south; others died, or were picked up by recruiting parties. Unmarried girls went to the south also for service, especially before harvest. It is not unreasonable to conclude, that these have been among the causes, of diminishing the number of inhabitants.

The only species of manufactory in these bounds, previous to the erecting the cotton mill, by Mr. Dempster and his partners, was the spinning linen yarn: This is but a very scanty earning. There are 4 or 5 persons in the parish, who give lint out to spin: one of these gets 10,000 spindles spun in a year; the others not near so much: But it is to be observed, that they give out lint to spin, to the people in the neighbouring parishes, as well as to the people of the parish itself: 4d. or 5d. is the most that a woman can earn in a day, and few earn so much by spinning.

Modern Improvements.—We shall conclude this paper with the observations of a distinguished British patriot, and a real friend to the happiness of society, (GEORGE DEMPSTER, Esq.
of

of Dunnichen), who having purchased a considerable property in this and the adjoining parish, and having the management of another estate in this parish, acquired by his Brother Captain DEMPSTER, has just begun to carry into practice some part of a plan, which appears to him well calculated for the improvement of a Highland estate. At Sir John Sinclair's express desire, his thoughts on this important subject, were lately communicated to the writer, in the following words.

PLAN for improving the estates of SKIBO and PULROSSIE.

These estates contain about 18,000 acres of land, extending from the point of Ardnacalk on the north bank of Dornock, westward to Port-Leak, being an extent of 12 or 14 miles. The bulk of the estate is hilly, but the hills are of no great height, seeming generally to rise about from 500 to 700 feet above the level of the Frith. There may be about 200 families living on these estates, with the exception of the *mains*, or house-farm, of each place. The farms are of small extent in regard to arable ground. They produce some corn and potatoes, hardly sufficient to maintain the families of the tenants. The tenants pay their rents by the sale of cattle, which are fed in their houses, on straw, through the winter, and pick up a miserable subsistence on the waste and common ground of the estate, during the summer. The whole of the present rent is from 700l. to 800l. a year, of which more than a fourth part is paid, by the two large farms belonging to the mains, or mansion-house. The estates furnish some wood, with which, and the swarded surface of the ground, cut into the form of large bricks, they make houses and offices for themselves, covering them with the same swarded turfs, cut thinner, and resembling
flates

slates in their form. Once in three years, all the earthy part of these houses is thrown on the dunghill, and new houses built again of the same materials. The cattle commonly occupy one end of the house, during the winter season. Some holes in the walls and roofs serve for windows and chimneys. An iron pot, for boiling their food, constitutes their principal furniture. Nothing can exceed the wretched appearance of these habitations. As to the occupations of the people, the women begin to earn a little money by spinning. The young men go early in the spring to the south country, and hire themselves for all kinds of country labour; towards harvest, many of the women also go the same way, to assist in cutting down and getting in the crop. They all return before winter, and are said to pass their time round good fires of peat, which the country every where furnishes, and to do very little work. In the south country, however, to which they go, they are remarked for their assiduity, and are said to be indefatigable in executing all manner of task work. Those, who remain at home, attend to the concerns of their corn, potatoes, and cattle, and to the providing of their fuel from the neighbouring peat mosses. The climate, near the banks of the Kyle, or Frith of Dornoch, ripens wheat, barley, oats, and pease; becoming gradually colder, as you recede therefrom, and ascend the hills, which are covered with heather, interspersed with coarse grass. The vallies among the hills, and the ground on the sides of the hills, appear to be capable of being cultivated; and there are many little rising grounds, some flat moors, and the face of some of the hills so bare and stoney, as to be fit for plantations only. It need hardly be mentioned, that the inhabitants are in general poor;—that is, possess little money or goods, except a stock of very indifferent cattle.

It is not the intention, therefore, of the proprietors, to exact, for some time, any increase of rents from these people;
but,

but, on the contrary, to encourage them, by every possible means, to improve their little spots of land, to erect for themselves more comfortable houses, and to build them of more durable materials. On these estates, there are some stations remarkably well adapted for villages. They lie on the banks of the Kyle, which is a frith or arm of the sea, navigable for 7 miles, by vessels of a considerable burden, and for small craft, about 15 miles more. In all, this Frith is navigable for 24 miles. To give a beginning to these villages, a company is formed, consisting chiefly of Glasgow gentlemen, who have subscribed a capital of 3000 l. and made some progress in erecting a manufacture of spinning cotton by jennies, and of weaving their yarn. Instructed persons are sent from Glasgow to conduct the work, and to teach the natives of the country the arts of spinning and weaving. The town is lotted out, and some houses for weaving are in forwardness. Vessels of 50 tons burden can land their cargoes at this place.

A second village, two miles lower down the Kyle, is also lotted out, and a large warehouse already built. Here, the water is deep enough to receive any vessel, that can enter the Kyle, and come over the bar, (known by the name of the *Gissen Brigs*,) at its mouth, on which there is 4 fathom water at spring tides, and 6 or 7 feet less at neap tides. Here also, a gentleman has undertaken to establish the weaving of linen, and to encourage the extension of the spinning of yarn all around the country. At both manufactures, apprentices will be instructed in the art of weaving, in order to introduce that art into the houses of the small tenants, as it is found already to be in the shires of Renfrew, Perth, Angus and Aberdeen. By these means, constant employment will be found for people of all ages and sexes, and a considerable market opened for the productions of the country.

That the people may have nothing to divert their attention from their own business, all the services performed by them and their cattle, to their superiors, are commuted into money; and tithelage to the mills of the baronies is also abolished. Measures are taking to give the people secure possession, (for their own lives at least,) of their houses, gardens and arable lands, with full liberty to cultivate as much of the waste land as they please. Their cattle are suffered to pasture on the other waste lands, as long as they shall remain in a waste condition; but the proprietors reserve to themselves, the power of inclosing and planting all such parts of the waste lands, as are fit for no other purpose. Some plantations of this kind have been already made, and the trees seem to thrive very well on the lightest soils. The trees are principally the larch, the Scotch fir, and the birch, intermixed with beech and mountain ash. The rest of the waste land is open to every settler, who shall incline to cultivate them. Twenty or thirty new settlers have already exhibited strong proofs of what Highlanders can do, in the improvement of their own country, when secured in the enjoyment of the fruits of their labour. It may be worth while to mention the nature of this security. The first settlers may improve as much land as they find waste around them, for which they pay only 1 s. a-year during their lives. When they die, their heirs have the refusal of their father's possession, at an appraised value, to be fixed by arbitrators mutually chosen. This rent is invariable, till the next generation, when the valuation is to be repeated; and so on every generation. A little iron for tools, wood for their houses, and seed potatoes and corn, is furnished to them for the first 2 years. They are exempted from every species of personal service. Those, who have visited the mountainous countries of Switzerland, Wales and Norway, have seen what liberty and security can do, towards rendering them fertile. In addition to the general freedom

dom, which the inhabitants of this happy island enjoy, under our mild and durable constitution, the inhabitants of those estates will enjoy perfect security, as occupiers of land. That those advantages will lead them gradually to better their houses, to improve their lands, and to alter their own condition in every respect for the better, is beyond a doubt.

To calculate the advantages, which will in time accrue from this system, to the owners of 18,000 acres of land, on which it is introduced, would be no easy matter; but the following observations, will lead, perhaps, to the forming some idea of them. Land lets, for potatoe grounds and other purposes, round many towns in Scotland, at various rents, from 1*l.* upwards. Manufacturers in Lancashire, and in some of the counties of Scotland, pay for the little spots they occupy in the country, round their own houses, from 1*l.* to 4*l.* Sterling *per* acre. The cotton manufacture is said to have doubled the rents of Lancashire, within these last 20 years. The demand for wood is very great; and as all the woods on this estate, will be near a navigable frith, the wood will fetch the current price, and be liable to little deduction, from the facility of carrying it to market; while the practicability of being supplied with that article from the Baltic, is said to lessen yearly. The probable future value of these estates, cannot be easily ascertained; but, we know, that wherever industry has extended itself in Scotland, the rents of land have risen at least threefold, and much more in the neighbourhood of towns. It is to be observed, that this system is attended with no expence of any material consequence, except that part of it, which consists in planting the usefess land; which, as it is considerable, (perhaps not less than 3*l.* *per* acre,) may either be omitted, or done on a smaller scale and by slow degrees, according to the faculty and inclination of the proprietor.

Shall we state none of the advantages, but those of a *pecuniary* nature? Is nothing to be set down, for the PLEASURE OF BEHOLDING THE PROGRESS OF THE PROSPERITY OF A COUNTRY? IS THE JOY OF SEEING TOWNS AND HOUSES ARISING AROUND YOU OF NO VALUE? NOR THE ULTIMATE BENEFIT DERIVED TO YOUR COUNTRY, BY ADDING TO IT, INDUSTRIOUS INHABITANTS AND CULTIVATED LAND; THRIVING TOWNS AND FLOURISHING MANUFACTURES? Is there no pleasure in beholding the growth of woods of one's own planting? nor in the success of a system, so intimately connected with the HAPPINESS OF PEOPLE PLACED BY PROVIDENCE UNDER OUR CARE? Some have thought, that it would be a fitter use for the Highlands, to convert them into sheep-walks. That it might be better for the people to cultivate sheep, instead of black cattle, is probably true. That the sheep is a hardier, and a more useful animal than the ox, may be true also. That the increase of rents, by converting cattle-breeding farms, into sheep-walks, would be more sudden, than by the system here suggested, is not to be disputed. But that the estates would ultimately become more valuable, is by no means so clear a proposition. Tracks of land, which have been converted into sheep farms, yield little more, at an average, than 1 l. Sterling, per 100 acres. This is indeed a better rent than before. But how contemptible must this rent appear, when compared with an estate occupied by industrious manufacturers, and abounding in large woods of the finest fir, birch, and other trees? It is to be observed too, that there is a certain incompatibility between sheep, and people and trees. No care can protect new plantations from the depredations of sheep; they overleap every fence, and elude the utmost vigilance of the shepherd. The leaves of trees are their favourite food in summer; and the bark is their medicine, as well as food in winter. The lower grounds

grounds, now occupied by people, must be reserved for the food and shelter of the flock in winter; and this circumstance seems to form the chief incompatibility, between sheep and people. This argument will have the greatest weight, with those, whose observation or inquiries may have led them, to compare the mountainous parts of Spain, appropriated to sheep-walks, with the mountains of Switzerland and Wales, occupied by free and industrious inhabitants. The comparison is not to be made by units or decimals; for the advantage of men instead of sheep, are as thousands to one. As the understanding, industry and ingenuity of man, in a state of freedom, are superior to those of the brute creation, so is the value of an estate inhabited by mankind, to one occupied by sheep.

It is true, the people need not be driven out of the country, because sheep are introduced into it. Villages may be built for them, where they might be employed in manufactures. Let me ask, has that been the case? and let me doubt a little of the success of villages by compulsion. It is one thing to build a village, to which people may resort if they choose it, and another to drive them from the country into villages, where they must starve, unless they change at once their manners, their habits, and their occupations. How much better would it be, gradually to introduce spinning wheels and looms into their houses, than to drive them from their houses, their gardens, and their little fields? Besides, are men as advantageously placed in villages, for cultivating the soil, as when dispersed over every corner of the estate? Towns are said to thrive in proportion to the populousness of the country around them. It is by a mutual exchange of commodities, that both towns, and the country around, mutually support one another. To conclude, it is neither by feeding black cattle nor sheep, in the Highlands, that that country can be improved, but by the introduction of arts and agriculture.

agriculture. The first will increase the number and wealth of the people; the latter will augment the quantity of the production of the soil, both for the maintenance of people and cattle. But neither arts nor agriculture can prosper, unless the inhabitants are secure in the tenure, by which they occupy the spots on which they live. Good laws, a vigorous execution of them, feus, and long leases, are the great sources of the prosperity of every country, of Highland, as well as of more fertile and champaign countries. Try the question by this test. Let us ask ourselves, if the Highlands of Scotland, possess at present those sources of improvement and wealth? To these indeed must be superadded, on the part of government, good roads made at the public expence; for no mountainous country can be completely improved, till it be made accessible by good roads, the expence of which, its inhabitants are unable to defray.

As this is **THE FIRST ATTEMPT** to introduce the **MANUFACTURE** of **SPINNING** and **WEAVING COTTON** into the **HIGHLANDS**, the names of the **PARTNERS** of this **NEW COMPANY** deserve to be mentioned. The reader will observe, that public spirit is the motive by which most of the partners have been induced to embark their property in an undertaking, which may prove highly advantageous to the Highlanders, and particularly so to the proprietors of the above and other contiguous estates; but never, probably, will prove so profitable to the other partners, as undertakings of this kind, situated more immediately under their own eye. Each share in this company is one hundred pounds Sterling. The capital is 3000*l.*,—and the partners are

Mr.

| | Shares. |
|--|-------------|
| Mr. David Dale of Glasgow, | 2 |
| Mr. George M'Intosh of do. | 2 |
| Mr. William Robertson of do. | 1 |
| Mr. James Robertson of do. | 1 |
| Mr. Andrew Robertson of do. | 1 |
| Mr. Robert Dunmore of do. | 1 |
| Mr. Robert Bogle of Baldowie, do. | 1 |
| Mr. Robert Mackie of do. | 1 |
| Mr. William Gillespie of do. | 1 |
| Mr. John Mackenzie of London, | 1 |
| Mr. Dougal Gilchrist of Hospidale, | 1 |
| Mr. William Monro of Achanny, | 1 |
| Mr. John Frazer, factor to Lord Gower, | 1 |
| Mr. Benjamin Ross of Tain, | 1 |
| Mr. Scott of Dunninauld, M. P. | 1 |
| Captain James Rattray of Arthurstone, | 1 |
| Mr. John Ramsay, acting manager, | 1 |
| Captain J. H. Dempster of Polrossie, | 2 |
| Mr. Dempster of Dunnichen, | 2 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 23 |
| Vacant, | 7 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 30 of 100l. |

It may be proper to add, that Mr. Alexander Morison of Dundee, is the person who proposes establishing the linen manufacture in the county of Sutherland.

NUMBER XXII*.

PARISH OF DUFFUS.

(County and Synod of Moray.—Presbytery of Elgin.)

By a FRIEND to STATISTICAL INQUIRIES.

Extent, Surface, Soil and Produce.

DUFFUS extends 5 miles in length, from E. to W. along the S. coast of the Moray Frith, and in breadth from 2 to 3 miles S. and N. It is one continued plain, excepting a rising ground, of no great height, near the middle of the parish, which is every where arable. Along the coast, all the length of the parish, and more than half a mile of the breadth of it, the surface is a meagre, green, benty pasture. All this ground had formerly been a rich cultivated soil; but for many years, has been overblown with dry sand, from the western beach. The sand has for some time ceased to blow, and a great part of this space may again be brought into culture, by the application of the spade or trench plough. There have already been some successful experiments of this kind, and in many places, there is but little depth of sand upon the top.

All

* N. B. The PARISH of CRIECH, marked NUMBER XIX, should have been NUMBER XXI; and all the preceding parishes, (from CARLUKE, which is erroneously stated as NUMBER VIII, instead of NUMBER IX,) are numbered ~~one~~ too low.

All the rest of this parish is one continued arable plain, capable of producing every thing that will grow any where in Scotland. The eastward district is a deep rich clay, resembling the Carle of Gowrie, and is remarkable for superior crops of wheat, and of pease and beans. The western district is a black earth, in some places so much mixed with sand, as to render it of inferior quality ; but in other places so remarkably rich, as, without any application of modern husbandry, to produce crops, particularly barley, for quality and increase not to be surpassed in Scotland ; and reaped as early as the same crop on the coasts of Lothian, where sowing is in general earlier, and where agriculture is understood. The barley of this district, when sent to the Frith of Forth, yields as good a price as the best Stirlingshire or east Lothian barley. Along the coast of this parish, there are quarries of fine freestone, and, a little way up from the coast, quarries of lime-stone ; a treasure in agriculture, locked up from us for want of fuel, and which nothing but the abolition of the COAL TAX can open. The plain of Duffus, together with the ground of the adjoining parishes, is often (perhaps more from richness than situation) called the *Heart of Morayshire*,

Coast.—The coast of this parish is generally flat. At the west end, the land is at present only 4 feet above the level of the water. At this quarter, during the course of this century, the water has increased considerably on the land. Should it ever rise 4 feet higher than it does at present, it must fall into the lower grounds to the eastward, and overflow a great proportion of the extensive plains of Duffus, Drainy, Leuchars, Spiney and Innes. Yet this *possibility* is so little regarded, that perhaps no one ever bought or sold the property of these districts, a farthing lower from this consideration. How far it is expedient or practicable, to ward off so great an evil,

by erecting mounds and bulwarks on the shore, is left to those immediately concerned to determine.

Climate.—The superior earliness, fertility, and warmth, of the plains of Morayshire, are facts more certain than easy to be accounted for. It is known, that we are in a very northern latitude. The mountains of Sutherland and Caithness, seem to be at too great a distance from us, to afford us shelter from the north winds, which blow over a great surface of water before they reach us. To the E. we are also open to the German Ocean. It is true, that we have less rain than elsewhere, which is said to be accounted for by the flatness of our country; but other counties of Scotland, equally flat, have more rain. Our surface also inclines to the N., and the only near hills we have, are those on the S., seemingly more calculated to overshadow and hurt us, than to give us warmth. It is said, our soil is light, and therefore warm: it is so in many places; but there are also large districts of deep black earth, and of rank clay, where the same earliness appears. After all, were we merely to consult taste and imagination, in the choice of a residence, many would prefer what are often to be met with in the south of Scotland, green hills, with less fertility, and warmth in the valleys, to our dryer, earlier, and richer plains, with the prospect of black gloomy hills on the upper landscape.

Diseases.—Pectoral complaints, rheumatism, and fevers, are the most frequent diseases. The king's evil is not uncommon; and of late madness seems to be increasing, even among the common people. Upwards of 20 years ago, agues were frequent near the lake; but were confined to that situation. None of the sea-faring people are ever seized with agues. The itch is become much more rare than it was formerly. It is a truth, which no mere *Englishman* will readily believe, that

that in this comparatively rude part of Britain, the itch, at present, is less frequent, in proportion to its population, than in the British capital. With us, it arises from want of cleanliness in our persons and clothes; but in London, confined situation, strong feeding, and a thronged population, are the co-operating causes.

Woods.—Upon the south border of this parish, a common was lately divided by the different proprietors, and planted with Scotch firs. Planting here is doubly meritorious, as wood is needed equally for timber and for fuel. It may be observed, that the planting of forest trees is the only branch of improvement, in which our country has of late kept pace with the improving districts of Scotland. Within the last 25 years, considerable plantations have been made. In the eastern districts of the county, Scotch firs chiefly appear, even in many places where it is presumed the ground would have nourished better wood. In the western districts of our county, Scotch firs have been employed in the plantations, as they ought to be where the soil and climate require it, merely as nurseries in tender years, to more beautiful and valuable trees, as oak, elm, ash, &c.

Orchards.—Buchanan says, “that Moray, for pleasantness, and the profit arising from fruit trees, surpasses all the other counties of Scotland.” In modern times, we have much neglected this culture; and our orchards are at present often found about deserted castles and religious houses, nearly as much in decay as the buildings they surround.

Draining of Lakes.—The art of draining lakes, so as to render grounds fit for agriculture, seems to be here, as it is indeed throughout Scotland in general, but in its infancy.

The lake of Spiney has been allowed to spread for miles, beyond its original bed, and to cover, in whole, or in part, a large portion of very rich ground. A few years ago, an imperfect attempt was made to draw off the water from the upper grounds, by which some hundreds a-year were gained to the proprietors; but a complete draining, which is very practicable, and would be deemed easy in other countries, would produce thousands.

Cultivation.—Agriculture, with a few exceptions, is here in a very low state. The old plan of incessant tillage, without rest to the ground, or without having any sufficient proportion of it sown out in grass, or other green crops, still prevails. Grass, on the little spots where it is sown, thrives remarkably well. Our tenants are either without leases altogether, or have leases too short for answering any valuable purpose. No wonder then that farming has not advanced. Our farms are small, and we have no subtenants. The parish is totally open, excepting such inclosures as are round gentlemen's places. Various are the evils incident to open fields. One of the most teasing, and not the least hurtful, is the devastation incessantly made by our half starved cattle, upon the adjoining corn fields, whose hunger impels them to break from the range of grass, to which they are staked, or from the charge of careless boys and girls set to watch them.—Seaweed is much used for a manure,

Services.—Some services are still continued here; and upon one estate, the *tenth sheaf* is drawn in kind from the field, as part of the rent. Rent is paid chiefly in grain, often at the rate of a guinea per acre,—a price not too high for the quality of the ground; but too high without leases, strength or skill to cultivate it. The abject spirit of feudal habits, has made our
tenantry

tenantry undervalue their labour, and give to the superior such a proportion of their earnings, as leaves them without a decent maintenance; and renders this class of men, of all those who are able to labour, the poorest and most dependant among us. Their poverty has thrust them out of the rank, which it is advantageous to the community, that their profession should hold.

General Appearance.—Although there is abundance of excellent stones for building houses, the people in general are ill lodged. The meanness of their cottages, the leanness of their cattle, the open unimproved appearance of the fields, &c. present to the eye of a stranger a very unfavourable view of a country naturally rich. Perhaps it was, with such objects before him, that the great living historian of Scotland, while in Moray, said with surprise, “*Is this the fine province, of which I have heard so much?*”

Black Cattle, Horses, Sheep, and Poultry.—Our mode of farming makes little provision for black cattle, of which our stock is not great. We plough all with horses, and these are still of an indifferent breed, and ill kept up. They subsist in winter chiefly upon straw; the farmers have no hay.—There are, in the parish, about 2000 of the small white-faced breed of sheep, fed on the benty pasture already mentioned.—Our poultry have long been remarkable for large size and good quality; whether this is to be ascribed to the superior richness of our grain, or whether there is any peculiarity in the breed, is not ascertained.

Population.—Our population is at present 1500. It has not greatly diminished for some years past, notwithstanding there have been a few emigrations. The return to Dr. Webster

ter in 1755, however, was 1679. About the end of last war, some individuals went to North America, a few of whom returned and settled at home, bringing bad tidings of the country, which their imaginations had figured to be the *fairy-land* of wealth. Since that time, those who would have gone to America, had the prospect been favourable, have preferred a *home* emigration to the southern parts of Scotland, particularly Glasgow, Paisley, &c. And from this part of the north, there is, and always has been, a constant succession of adventurers issuing forth to the British capital, the East and West Indies, and other parts of the empire. There are 6 heritors in this parish. By far the greatest part of the people, are employed in agriculture*.

Trade.—There is a village, called *Burgh-head*, upon the coast, containing 400 souls, more than two thirds of whom follow a sea-faring life. Most of the rest are quarriers and stone masons. Here there are a few small boats employed in fishing, and 7 large boats are hired to the fishing on the west coast, on board each of which there are six people. Five large boats, with six people in each, are also employed in transporting stones from the quarries, to different parts of the country. Two sloops are employed, chiefly in carrying grain to the south of Scotland, and in bringing back coals.

Imports and Exports.—The principal imports are coals, mostly from Northumberland; and merchant goods, chiefly from London. Our exports are *men*, grain, linen yarn, and a few black cattle. The first and the last go chiefly to England, especially to the London market. The grain and yarn go to the south of Scotland.

Fishing.

* The wages of a male labourer without victuals, is 8d. per day; of a female 4d. In autumn both are higher. When fed by the employer, men servants in husbandry get from 5 l. to 8 l.; women servants from 30 s. to 40 s. a year.

Fishing.—There is a good white fishing here; cod, skate, ling, &c. are sold at present, from 1 d. to 1 ½ d. the pound. We have also hollibut, mackarel, whittings, seath, &c.; but although there are turbot on the coast, our people cannot fish them. Haddocks have never entirely deserted our coast, but they are at present in smaller numbers, and in deep water farther from land: Of consequence, they sell six times dearer than they did lately, being now at the rate of one penny each. They are larger in size than before. Of late, a lobster fishing has been set a going in the Moray frith by an English company. On the station, which included the coast of this parish, and of Drainie, there were caught last summer, and sent to the London market, 60,000 lobsters. It is said that no lobster traps were ever before seen on this coast. If this be true, it shews how long mechanical inventions are of becoming universal. So little are the people here accustomed to mechanical operations, that after several fruitless attempts, they have not yet been able to imitate with success this simple invention *.

Proposed Improvement.—At the village of Burgh-head, upon the west side of the promontory, nature has pointed out a station well adapted for a deep, a capacious, and a safe harbour. The property belongs to Sir Archibald Dunbar; and this gentleman, as well as the country at large, would be much benefited by such an erection. It could be made at a moderate expence, and with proper precautions, success would be certain. When one considers, that there is not along the whole south coast of the Moray Frith, from Buchanness to Inverness,

(upwards

* In Statistical accounts, the progress of mechanical inventions, ought not to be omitted. The benefit of such discoveries often remains confined to corners, because the public is not made acquainted with them. The improvement of a plough, a loom, a spade, a wheel, a lever, &c. as well as of the more complicated machinery of a ship, or of a spinning jenny, it is of importance to have as generally, and as quickly known as possible.

(upwards of 100 miles) one good or safe harbour, the propriety of this undertaking appears in a strong point of view. Most of our present harbours are at the mouths of rivers, which are constantly forming bars and shallows. At Burgh-head, there is no river; there is shelter from dangerous winds, a fine bottom, and water of any necessary depth. Burgh-head is nearly at an equal distance from Elgin and Forres; and if it had a good harbour, would soon become the port of both towns. Commerce and manufactures would of consequence soon visit this part of the country, and all the various advantages, arising from them to the public, would quickly follow such an important undertaking.

Church, Sectaries, School, and Poor.—The stipend is 8 chalders of barley, and 22 l. Sterling. Sir Archibald Dunbar is patron. Till commerce and manufactures arrive, to put money into the purses of the lower ranks, we cannot expect to see that multiplicity of religious opinions, and diversity of worship, which mercantile wealth, in a special manner, produces. We have two or three Antiburghers. A small Non-jurant meeting has existed in the parish, ever since Presbytery was established. It has been upheld, for many years past, by a very small number of very poor peasants. Will it be believed, 200 years hence, that such a description of people had, during the whole of their lives, been at the expence of a pastor and place of worship, chiefly that they might *clandestinely* offer up their prayers for a *proscribed race of Kings*, whom they never saw. These people are remarkable for their good neighbourhood, and Christian fellowship with those of the establishment around them.—The parochial school here has no other salary, than 7 bolls of bear, called *Reader's Bear*. The number of scholars may be from 40 to 50. Of all governments, ours requires most, that youth be well educated,
and

and knowledge universally diffused. In those appeals to the people, which it necessarily produces, nothing so much as a competent degree of knowledge can guard against the effects of imposture, and can establish, from age to age, in the public mind, a steady attachment to its free and unequalled constitution.—The poor at present amount to 60; and all the public supply they have is from the church collection, which is about 5 s. each Sunday: scanty provision indeed! We received with gratitude our share of the bounty in grain, sent to us, in the year 1783, by a wise and humane Legislature. How strange, that the same humane and enlightened policy, which saved from famine many individuals in one season, should shut its eyes for so many years, against the operation of a tax (viz. that on coals), which, in its effects, has, every year, embittered the existence of thousands in the northern parts of Scotland, and, at the same time, has proved an invincible bar to the increase of population and wealth, by the introduction of manufactures. Thank God, that tax is about to be abolished.

Fuel.—The mosses here are utterly exhausted; and we depend on Northumberland chiefly for coals, which cost very dear. The expence of a private family, situated at the distance of 8 miles from the harbour, and using three fires constantly, is about 24 l. a-year, including the payment of carriage from the ship. When the odious and impolitic tax on this commodity, at the Red-head, is taken off, then shall we of the north date the *first year of equality, and of rational taxation.*

Roads.—We have no turnpikes, nor is the statute labour commuted. Road-making here is, as yet, but in its first rudiments. It seems strange, that society, all over Europe, should have perfected (so far as it appears capable of perfection,) intercourse by the watery element, long before general plans have been any where adopted, for perfecting the internal intercourse of countries, by rendering good roads universal.

There is now, however, reason to expect, that the contrast which almost every quarter of this kingdom at present exhibits, between made roads and unmade, between comfortable motion, and uncomfortable, between quick and slow journeys, must operate strongly and rapidly, in rendering good roads universal *.

Eminent Men.—Two of the ablest men, which this part of Scotland has produced, were both heritors of this parish; Sir Robert Gordon of Gordonston, father of the present Sir William, and Mr. Gordon of Clunie, father of the present Mr. Baron Gordon. The former gentleman held a seat in the British Senate; but it is said, that, owing to incumbrances upon a fortune now remarkably affluent, he was induced in early life to quit a scene, where, from his singular eloquence and profundity of intellect, nature had so remarkably fitted him to shine. It was afterwards the lot of those two gentlemen, to be frequently opposed to each other in the petty competitions of private life; in which they displayed an ability that marked them out to all their co-temporaries, as individuals far surpassing the common line of human genius. It is not always the fortune of nations to be able to draw, from the great mass of the community, statesmen of such ability as those two individuals possessed. They have left no literary memorials, however, behind them.

Antiquities.—In Malcolm II's reign, the Danes took possession of Moray. The king headed an army against them in person, and was overcome in a pitched battle. "Upon this," says Buchanan, "the castle of Nairn was surrendered to them, which they

* *Query,* When labourers are in such request, and farmers so pinched, by the high wages they must pay their servants, why might not the military, in peaceable times, be employed in road-making, and other public works?

“ they strongly fortified, and of a peninsula made an isle, by cutting through a narrow neck of land ; and then they called it “ by a Danish name, *Burgh*.” All our historians are mistaken in placing this fort at *Nairn*, where there never was any such building. But, in this parish, the peninsula above mentioned is situated ; and upon it, there are large remains of a regular fortification. The cut made to insulate the promontory is yet visible, but now dry and nearly filled up. The place still retains its Danish name, being generally called by the common people *Burgh*, and sometimes called and written *Burgh-head*. 2. After Malcolm had overcome the Danes, under Camus, in the battle of Panbride, in Angus, Camus, with his remaining troops, attempted to retreat to Moray, by the mountains, but was overtaken, routed, and slain. There is an obelisk standing at the west end of the parish, conjectured to be the obelisk which, historians say, was erected for this victory ; and near this monument, there is a village called *Kaim*, which is supposed to be the village mentioned by Buchanan, as retaining the memorable name of Camus. 3. Upon the north-west border of the lake of Spiney, there are standing upon an artificial mound, surrounded with a fosse and draw-bridge, the walls of a strong castle, called *Old Duffus*. It is known to be of great antiquity ; but at what precise time it was built, or who were the original proprietors, cannot be traced with any degree of certainty. It is surrounded with orchards and forest trees, and, standing in the heart of a charming plain, presents, at every point of view, one of the most picturesque and beautiful objects which the country exhibits. 4. At the village, of Duffus there is a square, (in the centre of which the church is placed), surrounded by four streets regularly paved, the workmanship of *Oliver Cromwell’s* soldiers†.

† Had it not been for swelling the Statistical work too much, to have allowed a corner in it, for a selection of such epitaphs as are curious, would have sur-

Disadvantages.—The principal of these, are the distance from mills, and a severe *mill tithing*,—idleness,—little attention to industry,—a want of manufactures,—a want of general skill

afforded a pleasant morsel to readers of a certain taste. The following epitaph is found on the tomb-stone of a sailor in the church-yard of Duffus.

- “ Though Eolus’ blasts, and Neptune’s waves, have toss’d me to and fro,
 “ Yet now at last, by heaven’s decree, I *harbour* here below :
 “ Where at an *anchor I do ly*, with others of our fleet,
 “ Till the last trump do raise us up, our *Admiral* CHRIST to meet.”

The Gaelic is not spoken on the coast of Morayshire. We speak the English mixed with a large portion of provincial dialect. Our accent is, in the ear of a stranger, snappish and provoking, assimilating to that of Aberdeen, but is said not to be quite so invincible as theirs, to those who leave the country. It is more disagreeable and more difficult to overcome, than the accent of our western neighbours of Inverness; besides, that they have an advantage over us in using none but modern English words. The remark, which strangers make of us, that we seem unwilling to open our mouths when we speak, is fully confirmed, by finding that of the 16 vocal articulate sounds which compose the English language, we have totally thrown out in our dialect the two fullest and most sonorous, and have substituted short and slender sounds in their place. No Morayshire man of the lower ranks ever pronounces broad *a*, or long *e*; for the first he always uses the short and slender sound of *a*, as *lā* for law, *Agus* for August, *ā* for all; for the last he always uses likewise the short and slender sounds of *e*, as, *clē* for clōck, *rēd* for rōad and rōde, *nē* for nōte, *rē* for rōte, *nē* for nō, *chē* for chōke, *pē* for pōst. This peculiarity is the more remarkable, because, although these two full sounds of *a* and *e*, are very prevalent in England, yet they are still much more so in the south of Scotland; insomuch that the more frequent use of them, is that, which (next to the North British accent) most readily distinguishes the language of a south country Scotchman of education, from the language of England. And perhaps, from this circumstance, we have received our national nick-name, in the broad sound of *Savony*. But, although fashion is now beginning to force upon our middling ranks here, those two full sounds, yet they feel, in the endeavour to pronounce them, nearly the same difficulty, that would attend the introduction of sounds altogether foreign. Our dislike to full sounds, also appears in our preference of the slender *e*, which in the language of the north, usurps occasionally the place of almost every other vowel, as *moon* for moon, *spēen* for spoon, *frēt* for fruit, *yēl* for yule, *meadow* for meadow, *tesk* for title,

skill in agriculture,—a perplexing and inconvenient variety of weights and measures,—want of fuel, attended with loss of health and lives among the poor,—frequent celibacy, or late marriages, occasioned by poverty and depression,—an oppressive coal-tax,—and an inconvenient distance from a Custom-house, being 40 miles from Inverness, which is the nearest.

Advantages.—The principal are, a sea-coast,—a good soil,—a good people,—and a good climate. Whether what historians remark, of our having in the plains of Moray, about 40 days more of dry weather through the year, than in any other part of Scotland, be precisely accurate, has never been ascertained.

Character and Manners.—Society in this country is as yet chiefly divided into *high* and *low*. The latter class, though poor

agh for *use*, *pond* for *point*, &c. Our people substitute the sound of *f* for *wh*, as *fat* for *what*, *futeb* for *which*, &c. They pronounce such words as *filthy*, *fiscal*, *will*, *which*, &c. as if spelt *fulthy*, *fusal*, *wull*, *futeb*, &c. They suppress *r* in a good many words, as *fiß* for *first*, *boß* for *horse*, *puß* for *purse*, &c. This is the more remarkable, as in general the Scotch pronounce this letter much more forcibly than the English do. The gutturals, *gh* and *ch*, are more frequently pronounced here, than in the south of Scotland. The Scotch and French *e*, which is never heard in England, though not in so frequent use here as in the south of Scotland, is notwithstanding so prevalent as to have the name of this vowel expressed in that sound: as is also the case in the rest of Scotland. Here *u* and *e* are sounded for one another; but this is also the case among the illiterate in other parts of Britain. The French *u*, resembling the *У* sound, and so frequent at Edinburgh and the neighbouring countries, never found its way to the north. It was imported by the Scotch court from France. The Scotch diphthong *ei*, we use as frequently as in other parts of Scotland; for instead of pronouncing the English *i* in *life*, *strife*, &c. we pronounce those words as at Edinburgh; *leif*, *ßreif*, *hneif*, &c. The sound of short English *i*, as in *pit*, *fit*, *pick*, &c. is never used in our dialect. Its substitute is a sound approaching nearer to the short English *e*, than to the short English *i*, as if spelt, *pet*, *fet*, *peck*: this however is common to our lower ranks, with the rest of Scotland.

poor and depressed, are not querulous, but peaceable and well disposed. The higher ranks still retain, comparatively, a considerable portion of the manners of the old barons. In some instances, those peculiarities of behaviour are apparent, which an exclusion from the public eye, and a remote situation, are ready to produce. So that we are reminded, at times, of the remark of a celebrated dramatist: "In the cities and populous parts of the empire, there prevails such a uniformity of level manners, that I have been obliged to beat about amongst the out-skirts of the country, for characters, at once *natural* and *singular*, with which to fill my drama." Our middle ranks, compared with those of other countries, are yet inconsiderable. They are not fully occupied with business,—have no stile of manners appropriated to their station,—but are fond of the company and manners of their superiors, and converse more frequently, than is done in other places, about modes and fashions in dress and manners. A superior degree of *shrewdness*, has been commonly affixed to the character of a north-country man, which is well expressed in the common adage, "you are *too far north* for me." The remark is more applicable to our neighbours of the Aberdeen and Inverness districts, than to us; compared to them, we, in Morayshire, are a blunt and plain people. Our people are as yet sober, and little addicted to the intemperate use of spirits. The suppression of smuggling, so happily effected of late by the vigilance of government, has banished foreign liquors, and introduced very generally the use of whisky of our own distilling, which is both wholesomer and cheaper. Beer, however, is still too little used, for which whisky is a most improper substitute. It is submitted, whether the price of this unnecessary article ought not to be kept so high, as, if possible, to prevent it from being in too frequent use among the lowest ranks. Dislike for diversity in religious opinions, and modes of worship, together

gether with the illiberal prejudices respecting *Higblander* and *Lowlander*, have greatly ceased amongst the people. They became Presbyterians more from accident than from temper. During the alternations of Presbytery and Episcopacy, which took place after the Reformation, they did not at all discover that decided preference to Presbytery, which marked the western and southern counties. Had not their sentiments been keener than ours on this point, our island would probably at present have had but one national church. At the Revolution, few of the clergy of this province conformed to Presbytery, but availed themselves of the indulgence which the government gave, of allowing them to remain in their benefices for life, upon qualifying to the civil government. And in order to cherish Presbytery, it was necessary, from time to time, to send clergy from the south country to serve the cure. That horror at the name of *holidays*, which was once a characteristic of the Puritans, and *true blue* Presbyterians, never took possession of our common people here: and they still celebrate (perhaps without ever thinking of the origin of the practice), *St. John's day*, *St. Stephen's day*, *Christmas day*, &c. by assembling in large companies to play at foot-ball, and to dance and make merry. It is among the marks of an improving country, to find all the different ranks of society enlarging their sphere of motion. The higher ranks roam chiefly for amusement, and from curiosity; the lower move principally with a view to business and gain. In both cases, the consequences are beneficial to the district to which they belong, by giving rise to a wider comparison of objects and usages. The common people resident in Scotland every where, at present, move more from their native spot than formerly. In the time of our grand-fathers, fewer of the commonality crossed the Spey or the Firthhorn, (the two rivers bounding the country), than now visit distant counties and towns, and even foreign

reign regions. The improvement derived from this change, is here, as yet, but beginning to be felt. The dress is what is common in the low countries. The women, among the common people, come abroad to church and fair, without caps or bonnets on their heads; and, instead of cloaks or mantles, are often dressed in striped blankets; such as are used for beds. The last particularly strikes and offends the eye of a stranger. An English woman, who came among us lately, said, this dress always put her in mind of M'Beth's witches at Drury-Lane. Surnames are here more numerous, in proportion to the population, than in the Highlands, but less numerous than in the southern districts of Britain.

NUMBER

NUMBER XXIII.

PARISH OF DUMBARNY.

(County and Presbytery of Perth.—Synod of Perth and Stirling.)

By the Rev. Mr. DAVID BEATSON,

Extent, Situation, and Prospect.

THE parish of Dumbarny extends in length about 4 English miles, and in breadth about 3. It is the most beautiful part of Strathearn; inclosed, as it were, on the south by the Ochill hills, on the north by the hill of Mordun or Moncrieff, on the west by rising grounds, intersected by the river Earn in various windings; the flat and rising grounds being adorned with planting, beltings, avenues, and hedges. The great road, running across the parish, and the sloops under sail on the river, with gentlemen's seats interspersed, form a most delightful landscape. The view from the top of Mordun is extensive, various, and grand. The ingenious

Mr. Pennant, on account of the richness and variety of this prospect, calls it "*the GLORY of SCOTLAND.*"

River, Fish, and Bridge.—The river Earn, which runs through the parish, has its source in the loch of that name, and joins the Tay about 3 English miles below the bridge. The tide flows about 2 miles above the bridge; but the water is not salt. Sloops, from 30 to 50 tons burden, with lime and coals, come to the bridge; and, by a little attention, the country might, by the same navigation, be supplied with wood, iron, and other articles of foreign commerce. Salmon, trout, pike, and some perch, are found in the river; and the proprietors, on each side of it, have salmon fishings, which are of no great value. The bridge over the Earn is supposed to be of great antiquity. It is kept in repair by the town of Perth, for which the town has always had a custom or toll; but this is far from being an adequate fund, considering the great sums that have been expended in repairs.

Soil, Cultivation, &c.—The soil of this parish is various. Clay, till, loam, and some light land, are found. The present fertility of the land is, in a great measure, owing to the effects of lime, which is a powerful and successful manure, especially on the clay land. They lay from 40 to 60 bolls of shells, or unslacked lime, on the acre. Summer fallow is a good deal in use; but the culture of turnips is little attended to. The soil in general, being strong, is not easily pulverized, to make it fit for that crop; besides which, the ploughing is solely performed by horses.

Rents.—The rents in general, are from 1*l.* 10*s.* to 1*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per acre. The valuation of the parish of Dumbarny, in
the

the cess books, including the lands annexed to Dron, *quoad sacra*, amounts to 632ol. 4s. 10d. Scotch.

Population.—The increase of population in this parish is very great. The present incumbent was settled in the year 1759.

The number of souls, at that time, was about - 600
In the year 1774, it rose to - - 1026
And in this year, 1792, it amounts to - 1250
Which, in the period of 33 years, is an increase of - 650
The increase, within these 40 years, however, is only 486
The return to Doctor Webster, in the year 1755, being 764

This increase is not occasioned by the establishing of manufactures, as there are none in the parish; but is owing to a philanthropic plan, adopted by some of the proprietors, of letting out a considerable part of their lands in small possessions. And there is a probability, that the parish may still increase, as a village is erecting at the bridge of Earn, which, from its situation, promises in time to become considerable. The following is a list of marriages, &c. for the last eleven years.

LIST of Marriages, Baptisms, and Burials, for eleven years :

| Years. | Marriages. | Baptisms. | Burials. |
|--|------------|-----------|----------|
| 1782 | 6 | 18 | 13 |
| 1783 | 4 | 27 | 10 |
| 1784 | 9 | 34 | 14 |
| 1785 | 10 | 21 | 31 |
| 1786 | 6 | 26 | 14 |
| 1787 | 14 | 18 | 17 |
| 1788 | 8 | 23 | 11 |
| 1789 | 9 | 28 | 21 |
| 1790 | 14 | 30 | 8 |
| 1791 | 10 | 26 | 33 |
| 1792 | 9 | 24 | 23 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 99 | 275 | 195 |
| Annual average, - - 9 | | 27½ | 19½ |

Church.—The church and manse were originally situated at the extremity of the parish, to the west ; which being very incommodious, they were, in the year 1689, built near the bridge of Earn, and are now about the centre of the parish. The parishioners still continue to occupy the old burying ground ; and none bury in the ground about the present church. There was formerly a chapel at Moncrieff, and a church at Kirkpottie, both appendages of the church at Dumbarny. The former is now the burying-place of the family of Moncrieff, the latter is long since in ruins : and the estate of Kirkpottie, and other lands, belonging to the parish of Dumbarny, were, in the year 1652, annexed, *quoad sacra*, to the parish of Dron, being at a great distance from the church of Dumbarny. The Magistrates and Town Council of Edinburgh are patrons of the church, and titulars of the teinds of the parish of Dumbarny. The minister's stipend is 814 merks Scotch, in money, and the vicarage teind, 4 chalders of victual, whereof there are 40 bolls of meal, and 24 of bear, besides 40l. Scotch for communion elements.

Harmonious Settlements.—In this parish, there are comparatively few dissenters. The inhabitants have always distinguished themselves by a strong attachment to the Established Church, and by an uncommon harmony at the settlement of their ministers. This harmony has, in a great measure, proceeded from the moderation and good sense of the patrons, who have always exercised their right, in a way that was agreeable to the heritors ; and they, on the other hand, have uniformly consulted the peace of the parish, in their applications to the patrons ; an example to other patrons and heritors, well worthy of imitation. By such moderation, the settlement of most parishes would be peaceable ; an object certainly of great consequence to the interests of religion, the benefit

nefit of landlords, the comfort of parifhioners, and the increafe of the funds of the poor.

School.—The fchool-mafter has a legal falary of 200 merks Scotch, which, with about three quarters of an acre of land, and other emoluments, will amount to about 30l. Sterling yearly.

Pitkeathly Wells.—The mineral waters of Pitkeathly, which have long been famed for their efficacy in curing or alleviating the fcrrophula, fcurvey, gravel, &c. are fituated in this parifh. This mineral is gentle in its operation, has an agreeable effect in relieving the ftomach of crudities, procuring an appetite, and exhilarating the fpirits; and, inftead of weakening, tends to ftrengthen the conftitution. The water is of a cooling quality, and very efficacious in removing all heat and foulnefs of the blood. It is ufed both for drinking and bathing. In fome cafes the warm bath has the moft falutary effect, efpecially in fcrrophulous and fcorbutic complaints, but fhould be ufed with caution, as it tends to weaken, if made too warm, or ufed too frequently. The time, when this mineral was difcovered, cannot be afcertained with certainty: even tradition fays nothing of its firft difcovery. There are five diftinct fprings, all of the fame quality, but of different degrees of ftrength. In the year 1771, fome experiments were made on one of the mineral fprings, by Doctor DONALD MONROE of London, which, in 1772, together with a letter from the late Doctor Wood of Perth, on the fame fubject, were published in the LXII. volume of the Philofophical Tranfactions. This year, (1792,) Meflrs. Stoddart and Mitchel, druggifts in Perth, have, with much attention and accuracy, analized the feveral fprings. The following table, is the refult of their repeated experiments.

A TABLE, shewing the contents, in a wine gallon, of each of the Mineral Waters, belonging to the estates of PITKEATHLY and DUMBARNY.

| Names of the Waters. | Contents of the Waters. | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|----------|
| | East Well. | West. Well. | Spout Well. | Dumbar-ny Well | S. Park Well. | |
| Atmospheric air, - | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | Cub. In. |
| Carbonic acid gas, - | 8 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 5 | Ditto. |
| Carbonat of lime, - | 5 | 5½ | 5 | 5½ | 5 | Grains. |
| Sulphat of lime, - | 5½ | 5 | 3½ | 3 | 3 | Ditto. |
| Muriat of soda, - | 100 | 98 | 82 | 57 | 44 | Ditto. |
| Muriat of lime, - | 180 | 168 | 146 | 102 | 84 | Ditto. |
| Specific gravity of a gal- lon of each more than distilled water, } | 216 | 198 | 172 | 124 | 98 | Ditto. |

NUMBER

NUMBER XXIV.

PARISH OF KILMALIE.

(Counties of Inverness and Argyll.—Presbytery of Abertarph.—
Synod of Glenelg.)

By the Rev. Mr. ALEXANDER FRASER, Minister of that
parish.

Origin of the Name.

FROM the Gaelic, a branch of the Celtic language, are derived the names of places, not only among the mountains of Caledonia, but in the more campaign counties of Scotland. *Kil* signifies a burying place; and *Malie* must have been a person eminent for piety, or for some other extraordinary quality, who probably was the first that had been interred in that particular place, whence the parish receives its name. This is the more probable, as it is well known, that, wherever Popery prevailed, its partisans were wont to dedicate their churches, and sacred grounds, to some canonised saint. And, as a farther evidence, even the modern Highlanders, when their veracity is suspected, will use the following phrase: "*Air Malie tha,*" i. e. "I swear, or declare, by *Malie*, that it is as I say." Yet

Yet they seldom give themselves the trouble to trace the origin of the expression. As to the time, wherein this *Malie* flourished, tradition is silent.

Situation and Extent.—A part of the parish lies in Argyllshire, but the greatest part of it is in the county of Inverness. Being intersected in three different places, by as many arms of the sea, the parish is of an irregular form. The length, from N. W. to S. E., is about 60 miles in a straight line. The greatest breadth, from N. E. to S. W., is 30 miles in a line. It comprehends about 589 square miles, or nearly 376,960 English acres, measuring in straight lines. And, adding the surface of the hills and vallies, it must be, at least, one third more. An account of such an extensive parish may, to the natives of the low country, appear romantic.

Surface, Soil, and Climate.—The greatest part of the parish consists of high grounds; and, as the heaths yield excellent grass, it is well calculated for sheep. There are, however, many vallies, of various extent and quality. Upon the banks of the rivers *Lochy* and *Nevis*, and in several other places, there is a good deal of arable ground, of different qualities: the soil, in general, is shallow and sandy. The climate cannot be reckoned unwholesome, for several have lived to an advanced age; yet the air is moist, for the wind blows off the sea nearly two-thirds of the year. This accounts for the almost incessant rains which prevail; not only here, but in all other places on the West Coast of Scotland. Here, extreme cold is never known; and it is remarkably warm close to the shores, where snow seldom lies above 24 hours.

Diseases.—To the dampness of the air, may, no doubt, be attributed the frequency of the rheumatism; which is the disease

July, are the principal months for salmon;—July, August, and September, for white trouts and finnacks,—November, for char,—and April, for yellow trouts. Any salmon, that are sold in the parish, fetch 3d., and sometimes 4d. *per lib.*, and white trouts 2d. The fishing, upon the property of Mr. M'Lean of Ardgour, is worth 20l. annually. But the principal fishing is upon the Lochy, the property of the Duke of Gordon, and of Mr. Cameron of Locheile. The following table will show the number of fish caught upon it, during the last 7 years, their prices at Fort-William, and the markets to which they were exported.

| Years. | Salmon. | Grilse. | Price of each cask. | Markets. |
|--------|-------------|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1785 | 3678 | 976 | L. 5 2 0 | Aberdeen. |
| 1786 | 2036 | 3899 | 4 13 6 | Ostend by Aberdeen. |
| 1787 | 5279 | 819 | 4 1 0 | Bilboa. |
| 1788 | 1498 | 2032 | 3 10 0 | Ostend by Aberdeen. |
| 1789 | 1262 | 835 | 3 0 0 | Aberdeen. |
| 1790 | 1041 | 830 | 3 0 0 | Ostend by Greenock. |
| 1791 | 576 | 1200 | 3 2 6 | Aberdeen. |
| | <hr/> 15368 | <hr/> 10591 | <hr/> L. 26 9 0 | |

Each cask contains about 80 grilse, or 28 salmon and 8 grilse, or thereabouts. The price of each cask, including salt, cooperage, &c. costs 13s. The rent of the river, and expences attending the fishing, are about 370l. a-year. The average of those 7 years, is 2195½ salmon, and 1513 grilse, equal to 92 barrels; which, at the medium price of 3l. 16s. 8d., are worth only 352l. 13s. 4d.; whereas the rent and expences, as stated, are 370l. *per annum*. It is, however, to be observed, that it is only within these three last years, that the river has been rented so high; and likewise, that the rent of a farm, worth, at least, 50l. *per annum*, is included in the 370l. Every year since 1787, there has been a

great decrease in the number of fish caught ; which must proceed from some inattention in preserving the salmon fry. The cruiving of the river, it is thought, is the chief cause, as the fish are thereby prevented from going to the fresh-water lakes to spawn. In all the lakes in the north of Scotland, which run to the east, pikes are to be found, but in none that run to the western sea, at least in the Highlands.

Coast.—One of the greatest advantages of the parish, is the vast extent of sea-shore it has ; which, computing on both sides of Lochcille, on the north of Lochleven, and a part of both sides of Linge-Hilloch, amounts to about 70 miles,—most of which is rocky and high. The lands, in some places, rise gradually many yards above the level of the sea, and are excellent pasturage for sheep, or horses. There is but little kelp made in the parish, because it is mostly the property of the landlords : and the tenants cut the sea ware, for manuring the ground, the quantity of dung they have being insufficient for that purpose. In some places, the tides run with amazing violence and rapidity. There are four very strong currents,—at Annat, Corran, Ballachulish, and Culisnagon. The lands, on both sides of Lochcille, being so high, occasion frequent sudden squalls, which have sometimes proved dangerous. Several have been drowned, of late years, in the parish.

Sea Fish and Fowls.—Herrings are the fish that abound most, and that are of the greatest benefit. They generally enter the parish in the month of July, and continue in season, provided the weather does not prove very stormy, till November. They are not equally numerous every year. The people of Fort-William, (where the greatest number of boats are,) reckon that a good fishing-season, in which they catch about 2000 barrels : last year (1791) there were about 3000 caught
which

ease that prevails most in the parish; and, since people have ceased to wear flannel shirts, it is become much more general. The prejudices, entertained by the inhabitants of this parish against inoculation, were, for a long time, invincible. But the better sort, setting the example, the rest gradually followed:—for we are fond to imitate our superiors. Yet there are some who still say, “That, to inoculate for the “small-pox, is *to tempt Providence*.” In one season, 460 were inoculated, of whom only 3 died; and their death the surgeon imputed to their being in a bad habit of body. Fevers of the epidemical kind are very frequent. Of late years, the dropfy is become pretty common, particularly among the poorer sort of people. This is ascribed to their feeding so much upon potatoes, which is now become a substitute for meal. The jaundice and the stone are almost unknown here: the former appears oftenest, however, but the ague has never yet invaded the parish. The *itch*, which has been imputed, as a disgrace, to this quarter of the island, is but rarely seen now, even among the lowest classes of the people. This, doubtless, is owing to their living in a more cleanly manner than their forefathers. But this distemper is not peculiar to a Highlander,—nor to a Scotch-man. It is a *plant* which grows in countries south of the Tweed, else there would be no word to express it in the *English* tongue; and it is well known to have been one of the plagues incident to the Egyptians * †.

VOL. VIII.

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Lakes

* Deut. xxviii. 27.

† It is a common practice for people to go hence to the low countries, in time of harvest, and return again in the beginning of winter. Within these very few years, a woman of this description came home, infected with a disorder that is a disgrace to human nature. Her father, who had been a stranger to the nature of her complaint, spoke to the incumbent about her;—and upon

Lakes and Rivers.—Loch-Archaig, which is 16 miles long, and one broad, is the only fresh-water lake, in the parish, of any consequence. From it flows the River Archaig, which, after running about a mile, discharges itself into Loch-Lochy. This lake is partly in the parish, and is the fountain of the river Lochy; which, near its fount, joins the river of Spian, and thus loses its name. Spian, runs through the parish of Kilmanivaig. These lakes are very deep: there are some others of inferior size. The length of the river Lochy is about 10 miles; and the medium breadth, about 200 feet. It is fordable in many places; yet, excepting at Torecastle, small boats are sometimes rowed up to its fountain. It disgorges itself into the sea, near Fort-William, with such rapidity and force, that it preserves its streams entire, for a long way, without any great mixture or taste of salt water. No other stream, in the parish, merits the appellation of *river*. Nevis, indeed, after great falls of rain, and when the snow is dissolving upon Benevis, and the surrounding hills, swells to a great height; but, in dry weather, it is no more than an inconsiderable rivulet. After performing a circuit of about 10 miles, and forcing its passage betwixt rocks and mountains, it sweeps along the walls of the garrison of Fort-William, and then resigns its waters to the ocean.

Fresh-Water Fish.—In those rivers, and in some of the lakes, there are salmon, finnacks, white, black, and yellow trouts. Even the lesser lakes, in the hills, abound with fine yellow trouts; and in some of them there are a few *char*. May, June, and July,

his inquiring what her disease was, answered, “ I am entirely ignorant of it;—
“ it is such as I never heard of; neither did you, I am persuaded.—It is some
“ *low-country disorder*.”—It cannot be denied, however, but that the army have frequently introduced this same *too fashionable* disease, into Fort-William and its neighbourhood.

you see the small isles, particularly Rum and Canna, and the Sound that separates them from Sky, and beyond all these, the Cullin hills, which form the west part of Sky itself. Here the prospect to the east is wholly obstructed by the upper part of the mountain. But still every part of Loch-eile can be easily observed, over which the whole horizon is surprisingly equal. One uninterrupted range of hills, which rise, one behind another, presents no particular object worth distinguishing.

From the altitude of 600, or 700 yards, upward, there is no vegetation at all, but merely rocks and stony parts, without even a mixture of earth. These parts are called *Scarnachs*.—They are quite flat, and may be walked over without any detriment :—Upon entering into them, some excellent springs of water are to be found. Here one is deceived with the appearance of a high part, which seems to be the top of the hill. The deception returns, and is repeated twice or thrice before you reach the summit, which is flat, and bears some resemblance to the segment of an arch, held in a horizontal position. The left side appears to be the highest : Hence you walk, with ease, over the flat weather-beaten stones, that lie close to each other, with a gentle declivity, and form an easy pavement to the feet.—You now come, all at once, to the brink of a precipice on the north-east of the mountain, almost perpendicular ;—certainly not less than 400, or 500 yards,—perhaps more, as it appears to exceed the third part of the whole height of the hill. A stranger is astonished at the sight of this dreadful rock, which has a quantity of snow, lodged in its bosom, through the whole year. The sound of a stone, thrown over the clift, to the bottom, cannot be heard, when it falls ; so that the height of the precipice cannot be ascertained by that easy experiment.

Looking

Looking to the east, Loch-Laggan appears, and to the south-east, Loch-Rannoch in Perthshire. But Loch-Tsy, being covered by the land, cannot be seen ; nor Loch-Er-racht. If you have a good map in company, lay it here, in a horizontal position, and, placing your eye on that part of it, where Benevis is delineated ; turn it, till the natural position of Loch-Rannoch coincides with its image on the map, and you will then have before your eye a true representation of the objects in view. In this manner, you will be able to discover the names of those high mountains, which rise above the rest ; viz. Crouchan Bhane, near Bunaw in Glenorchay ;—Shichallion, Ben-More, and Ben-Lawers, in Perthshire, Bhilian in Glenco, Ben-More, in the island of Mull ; Benuais, and other hills in Ross-shire. The whole of the great glen of Scotland, from Fort-George, to the sound of Mull, is, at once, in view ; comprehending the fresh water lakes of Nefs, Oich, and Lochy, and all the course of the two rivers Nefs and Lochy, from their source, to the place where they enter into the salt water, running in opposite directions, the one north-east, and the other south-west. The extent of view, on the horizon of the sea, is about 80 miles. One sees at once, across the island, eastward, to the German Sea, and westward, to the Atlantic Ocean.

Nature, here, appears on a majestic scale ; and the vastness of the prospect engages one's whole attention. Particular objects are but few in number, and they of no common dimensions ; else the eye would entirely overlook them. Such are those high mountains already enumerated ; which rise with sublime aspect over the other hills. But you are instantly sensible, that none of them is elevated so high as the spot on which you stand.

Just over the opening of the sound, at the south-west corner of Mull, Columba rises out of the sea, like a shade of mist, at the distance of more than 90 miles. Shuna and Lismore,

are

which proved a seasonable relief to many indigent families. There are red cod, lythe, feath, skate, flounders, mackarels, whittings*, and a few haddocks. If the weather be moderate, lythes and feaths may be fished every day of the year. Their prices vary, according to their sizes, from 2d. to 5d. the dozen. They are killed with small rods, and a hook, having a feather, resembling one of the herring fry. Cod, skate, and flounder, are caught with long lines, and baits of herring, or of muscles. There are a great many eels and sturgeons. Seals, and porpoises, and other sea animals, are frequently seen to chase the salmon, and whales, the herrings. Last harvest, three whales appeared in Locheile, of a great size: one of them seemed to measure about 600 feet. The same season, a shark, 3 years old, came ashore. That species of shark, called the dog-fish, is very numerous.

The sea fowls are, gulls, herons, cormorants, curlews, ducks, teals, pies, marrots, solon geese, eagles, and many others. Of the migratory kind, are the pictarnies and widgeons. The last appear in the latter end of harvest, or early in winter, and take their passage to some other seas in spring. The former arrive in the beginning of May.

Hills.—Are numerous in the parish, and mostly clothed with rich heath, and a mixture of grass, to the very summit. They are also of considerable height, but the most remarkable is Benevis, which is an object that attracts the attention

* Lord Lyttleton, in his journey into Wales, says: "But what Bala is most famous for, is the beauty of its women: and, indeed, I there saw some of the prettiest girls, I ever beheld.—The lake produces very fine trouts, and a fish called whiting, peculiar to itself, and of so delicate a taste, that, I believe, you would prefer the flavour of it to the lips of the fair maids of Bala." A hungry man might, but, surely, an amorous lover would not. Whether the whiting, of the lake of Bala, be the same with the whiting of our seas, is uncertain; but these have a sweet flavour, and are a delicious morsel.

attention of all curious travellers. Being the highest mountain in Great Britain, it certainly deserves a particular description.

Benevis.—This mountain is 4370 feet high.—It is easily ascended, by a ridge of the mountain, towards the west, about a quarter of a mile up the river Nevis, from the house where the proprietor resides. There is good pasture for sheep, here, as well as on the surrounding hills, for a great way up. The view is entirely confined within Glenevis hill, till you have got up about 500 yards perpendicular. Indeed, the valley, though confined, presents an agreeable prospect. The Vista is beautified with a diversity of bushes, shrubs, and birch woods, the seats of roes and deer, besides many lovely spots of green; a decent, neat, rural mansion, encircled by a young flourishing plantation; a river at the bottom of the vale, which, after being broken by a heap of mis-shapen stones, glides away in a clear stream; and, wandering through woods, vales, and rocks, loses itself in the sea. To heighten the pleasure of the charming view, the sea and the shores present themselves. This is such a prospect, as must expand the heart, and delight the spectator, attached to the charms of nature, and to rural scenes; and recal to mind the days of old, when princes and princesses are said to have tended their herds and flocks, amidst the beauties of Arcadia. Upon ascending above this height, the prospect opens, and enlarges, to the south-west, and you behold the Strait of Corran, the islands of Shuna and Lismore; the south-east part of Mull, together with the islands of Suile and Kerrera, on the opposite coast of Argyll. At this altitude, two elevated hills make their appearance over these isles; which, by their shape, declare themselves to be *the Paps of Jura*. Turning to the west, and inclining a little towards the north,
you

are like small spots of rich verdure ; and, though distant, near 30 miles, seem quite near, and under the beholder. The low parts of Jura, cannot be discerned; nor any part of Isla ; far less, the coast of Ireland, which some have pretended to see from the top of Benevis. Such, however, is the wide extent of view, from the summit of this mountain, that it reaches 170 miles, from the horizon of the sea, at the Murray Frith, on the north east, to the island of Columba, on the south west. Could one pass a night, in October, on the summit of Benevis, it is probable, that he would discover the heavenly bodies in greater splendor, than upon Mount Blanc itself. The latter, it is true, is much higher ; but the former, is in a colder climate, and consequently, when fair, in a less shaded sky.

The high hills on each side of the lakes and rivers, mentioned above, opening like huge walls, or ramparts, on each hand, yield a curious variety of agreeable wild prospects ; the vast windings whereof make the several turnings of the mountains rather diversify the scene, than obstruct the eye. Their extremities, declining gradually from their several summits, open into vallies, where one has variegated views of woods, rivers, plains, and lakes. The torrents of water, which, here and there, tumble down the precipices, and, in many places, break through the cracks and cliffs of the rocks, arrest the eye, and suspend the mind, in awful astonishment. In a word, the number, the extent, and the variety of the several prospects,—the irregular wildness of the hills, of the rocks, and of the precipices,—the noise of rivulets, and of torrents, breaking and foaming among the stones, in such a diversity of shapes and colours,—the shining smoothness of the seas, and of the lakes,—the rapidity, and rumbling of the rivers, falling from shelve to shelve, and forcing their streams through a multitude of obstructions,—the serenity of the

azure skies, and the splendour of the glorious sun, riding in the brightness of his majesty—have something so charmingly wild and romantic, and so congenial to the contemplative mind, as surpasses all description, and presents a scene, of which the most fervid imagination can scarcely form an idea.

The traveller, who is so callous, as to behold all this, and not feel the greatness and majesty of the ALMIGHTY ARCHITECT impressed upon his heart, must, indeed, be strangely void of sense, of taste, and of sentiment. It affords a lesson, worthy of travelling up the mountain to learn. Benevis, and the surrounding mountains, do, indeed, strongly excite the idea of Burnet, of their being the fragments of a once demolished world.—Few can perform a journey to the top of Benevis, and make proper observations, going and returning, in less than 7 hours; and still fewer, without feeling, in their limbs, the effects of the fatigue, for a day or two after.

Minerals.—There is no coal mine in the parish; but a vein of lead ore has been lately discovered, upon the west side of Benevis, running east and west, cross a burn, in the heart of a solid rock of fine red granite, with a slope outwards, as it descends; and, but for this slope, in a vertical position. It is four or five inches thick; composed of about one third of ore, and the rest, of white marcasite, with a mixture of sulphur; and seems to grow thicker, and richer, as it descends. The access is not difficult; and the perpendicular height, about 300 yards from the bottom of the valley. Two other parallel narrow veins, are to be seen a few yards lower down. Though a trial could be easily made, none has, as yet, been attempted. But, no doubt, Mr. Cameron of Glenevis, the proprietor of this mountain, so famous among Scottish hills, will be induced, by the promising appearance, to make a trial. At Inverscaddle, belonging to Mr. Cameron of Falsfern, there is another vein, of the same kind, which has been tried, but not

So far, as to ascertain its value. That these veins are good, and worth working, is highly probable, as they run in a line, east and west, with those at Strontian.

There is abundance of limestone in the parish; and, at Ballachulish *, belonging to Mr. Cameron of Lochcille, there is a fine appearance of a slate quarry, close to the shore of Lochleven, which there forms a pretty basin, where a quay could

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be

* "Near the farm houses," of Ballachulish, "there is a limestone, or marble rock, of a beautiful ashen grey colour, and of a fine regular uniform grain, or texture; capable of being raised in blocks, or slabs, of any size, and capable of receiving a fine polish. This singular rock, is finely sprinkled throughout, with grains and specks of fine bright mundick, or pyrites; and likewise, with grains and specks of beautiful lead ore, of a fine texture, which, to the eye, appears to be rich in silver. This would make a bright and beautiful metallic marble.

"In the farm of Blarmachshuilaich, belonging to the Duke of Gordon, about 3 miles south of Fort-William, in the bed of a river, there is a very singular marble, consisting of a black ground, and flowered with white. This stone, is of a fine close grain, or uniform texture, but not very hard; and the flowering in it is light, elegant, and beautiful, like fine needle-work; or rather, resembling the frosty fret-work, upon glass windows, in a winter morning; and this flowering, is not only upon the outside, but quite through all parts of the body of the stone.

"A great part of the hill of Benevis, is composed of porphyry. It is a remarkably fine, beautiful, and elegant stone, of a redish cast, in which the pale rose, the blush, and the yellowish white colours, are finely blended, and shaded, through the body of the stone, which is of a jelly-like texture, and is, undoubtedly, one of the finest, and most elegant, stones in the world. About three fourths of the way up this hill, upon the north west side, there is found a porphyry, of a greenish colour, with a tinge of a brownish red. This stone is smooth, compact, hard, and heavy, of a close uniform texture, but of no brightness, when broken. It is spotted with angular specks, of a white quartz substance.

"The elegant redish granite, of Benevis, is, perhaps, the best, and most beautiful in the world; and there is enough of it, to serve all the kingdoms of the universe, though they were all as fond of granite, as ancient Egypt *."

* See Williams's *Natural History of the Mineral Kingdom*.

be easily built.—There is a rock, of an excellent reddish granite, in the farm of Sallachan, belonging to Captain M'Lea of Ardgour, which will admit of a fine polish. What a pity it is, that such sums of money, should be sent every year to foreign kingdoms for marble, when our own country abounds with all kinds of stones, of the very best quality, necessary for ornamental architecture?

Echoes.—There is an echo at the Esplanade of Fort-William, near the place where the brewhouse stands, and another, in the face of the hill of Succoth, immediately behind Ardgour-house. There are probably several more in the parish.

Caves.—In the face of a very steep rock, near Ballachulish, there is a cave, but so difficult of access, that there is no person living, at present, in the parish, who has ventured to explore it*. A description of it, consequently, cannot be given. About 8 miles up the river Nevis, there is another remarkable cave, known by the name of "*Uaigh-t'Hoirlé*," or *Samuel's Cave*; that being the patronymic of the family of Glenevis. This cave is in the heart of a rock, which appears to be about 70 feet high, and nearly as broad, leaning to the side of a mount, south of the river, and not far distant from it. It is of difficult access, having, quite close to the entrance, a perpendicular rock, 30 or 40 feet high. The cave appears

* It is not a great number of years, however, since a man, who had been obliged to skulk for his crimes, made it his place of abode and refuge, for the space of about 3 years. During day light, he kept within his cell; but, as soon as the darkness of the night favoured him, he issued forth from his strong hold, in quest of provisions. While he continued thus cautious, he was secure; but, at last, growing confident, he ventured to sally out in the day time. In one of these predatory excursions, he was apprehended, and compelled to do justice to the laws of his country.

to be formed, by one part of the rock leaning to the other, and forming, between them, an arched, irregular, shapeless; kind of grotto, from 6 to 12 or 14 feet high. It is 30 feet long, and 11 broad. The floor is very uneven, sloping from the mouth all the way. There are 3 divisions in it; the largest of which, would afford shelter for about 30 people. At its extremity, there are two other passages, leading farther into the rock; both are quite dark. These apertures conduct, through the body of the rock, to other recesses; but such is their dark, and hideous appearance, that few can be prevailed on to enter them. One of these passages, opens at the extremity of the large apartment, and is lined with a shelving precipitate rock, that goes about 10 feet downwards, and effectually deters most of the visitants from proceeding any farther;—the other passage is nearly over it, at the roof of the vault, to which one may easily ascend, by the help of a sloping part of the rock. The earth, on the floor of the cave, and the drops oozing through the crevices, occasion a perpetual dampness, and disagreeable smell. It is the frightful habitation of darkness;—an abode, fit to be inhabited only by the sons of despair,—being one of those howling caverns, where the subterraneous winds blow. Hither, however, some retreated for safety, in the year 1746,—and here they, for some time, lived secure *. The mouth of the cave is not above 3½ feet high, and is pretty much concealed by its situation. The largeness

* There is a tradition among the vulgar, that a piper went once into this cave, and that the noise of his music was heard, under ground, at a place called Kinloch, distant, from the entrance of the cave, no less than 10 miles. The tune he played was, “*Oh! that I had three hands! two for the bagpipe, and one for the sword!*” signifying that he had been attacked by subterranean foes. Other parishes will, no doubt, claim right to this unfortunate piper, who forgot to bring a clew with him, to guide him back through the labyrinth. This story deserves the same credit, with those of many other traditionary tales, of the fabulous bards.

largeness of the rock, however, where it is, and some fir trees on its top, will lead to a discovery of it.

Cascades.—Just opposite to the rock, where the last mentioned cave is, on the other side of the river, there is a most beautiful cascade, falling down, by a gradual slope, from Bennevis, upwards of half a mile before it reaches the bottom of the valley, where it unites its streams with those of the Nevis. The appearance of this sheet of water, immediately attracts one's attention, dilates the heart, and kindles, in the mind, those lofty and grand sentiments of devotion, and those pleasing elevated feelings, which the sublime sound of a cascade, or the war of many waters, naturally excite. The windings of the river,—the verdure of the trees,—the wildness of the rocks,—the terrific aspect of the hills,—the mist, flying swiftly on their tops,—the clouds, rolling along with velocity,—the lonely situation, remote from human eye,—every thing conspires to make this fall of water, one of the grandest objects in nature. It even excels the famous *Fall of Foyers*, which cannot be beheld with so much complacency. It is, indeed, awful and sublime; but has too much of the *terrible* in its appearance.—About two miles further up the river Nevis, there is another cascade, which, after forcing its way through hills and rocks, has a fall of, at least, 500 feet perpendicular. It is on the same side of the river with the cave. This parish, as may naturally be expected, from the number of hills in it, abounds with cascades, that compose a beautiful and picturesque scenery.

Woods.—There can be little doubt, but that the greatest part of the parish was once over-run with wood. At present, it is said, there are about 14,000 acres under it. The most considerable, and the most valuable plantation, belongs to Mr. Cameron of Locheile,

Lotheife, who has upwards of 6,000 acres under birch and fir, intermingled, and 4,000 acres more, under oak and other timber. On the property of Capt. M'Lean of Ardgour, there are about 1,000 acres of firs, oak, and other species of trees. These woods, in many places, would be very valuable. Here, however, they are not, being far from the shore, and the roads to them extremely bad. To purchase imported timber, therefore, is found to be cheaper; at least, it is preferred. The trees, that grow naturally, are oak, fir, birch, ash, mountain-ash, holly, elm, wild geen, hazle, and the Scotch poplar. Those planted are, larix, spruce, silver fir, beech, plane, and fruit trees.

Wild Quadrupeds and Birds.—The quadrupeds are, deer and roes,—hares, as large as those in the low countries of Scotland, but not so swift,—weasels, polecats, badgers, and foxes; of two kinds: these last, are mostly extirpated, since the introduction of sheep.—The birds are, eagles, of three different kinds, hawks, kites, ravens, crows, and rooks. There are heathcocks, ptarmachans, and partridges; but they are decreasing annually, as their eggs are trampled upon, and broke by the sheep. There are also snipes, and plovers, with all sorts of poultry; and a great variety of small birds, of the musical kind, such as the rose, the heath, and the rock-linnet,—the chaff, the bull, and the goldfinch,—the sky-lark, the thrush, the robin-redbreast, &c.—The migratory birds are, woodcocks, which appear in October, and go away in March,—and cuckoos, swallows, martins, swifts, and stonechatters, which arrive in April, and depart in August, September, and October.

Cattle.—At present, there are in the parish, according to the exactest calculation that could be made, about 6,000 head
of

of black cattle, 500 horses, 1,000 goats, and 60,000 sheep. Before the mode of sheep-farming was introduced, a great number of horses were reared for sale. They were well shaped, hardy, and high mettled. Good ones now sell at from 8l. to 20l. Owing to their decreasing in number every season, they have advanced in price considerably, of late years. They are used in ploughing, harrowing, leading home peats, and carrying manure to the fields. Four of them, are yoked a-breast in the plough; and a man, who leads them, stands immediately before them, and walks backward, facing the ploughman. This, surely, is very aukward! The gentlemen in the parish, however, yoke but two horses in the plough; and the one who holds it, manages also the reins. Three different kinds of ploughs are used.—The sheep were first introduced, into the parish, in the year 1764. They have since increased so much, that about three fourths of the country are occupied by them. Wherever they are, there is not above the 1300th acre in tillage. Hence the quantity of hill ground may be conceived. But, indeed, the valleys are mostly pasture walks, for the winter and spring retreat of the sheep, as well as of the black cattle.—All the hills, below the perpendicular altitude of 600 yards, are lined with beautiful, soft, and rich heath; but, above that height, they are mostly barren. There is no common in the parish.

Produce, Cultivation, &c.—Oats, barley, and potatoes, are the principal crops. The climate and soil here are ill calculated for rearing grain. In the best season, the crop is precarious, and hardly equivalent to the expences incurred. Potatoes, which are mostly planted in drills, answer remarkably well; and turnips, it is believed, would turn to good account, particularly to the sheep farmer. Hitherto, however, little attention has been bestowed upon them. Oats are sown during

during the two last weeks of March ; barley, and potatoes, in the end of April, and beginning of May. Barley is reaped in the end of August ; oats, from the beginning of September to October, and potatoes, about the end of September.

The following is the average number of English acres, under the different sorts of grain, on each of the sheep farms :

13 acres are under 12 bolls of oats.
4 ——— under 3 bolls of barley.
10 ——— under 14 bolls of potatoes.

—
Total, 27 acres in tillage.

34,973 acres in sheep pasture.

In all, 35,000 acres; being 16 miles by 3 and two fifths.

In farms of less extent, there is a smaller proportion accordingly. Indeed, those proportions are equal to a medium of 4 ordinary sheep farms in the parish, or to 8, according to former divisions. In farms, where there are black cattle stocks, there are nearly 4 times this proportion of ground in culture. The pasture grounds, including sheallings, do not rent at above 4d. *per* acre annually. The returns, upon an average, are, of oats, 3 from 1, of barley, 5, and of potatoes, 10. There is no hemp, and very little flax seed, sown in the parish. The vallies and meadows yielding spontaneously plenty of excellent grass: there is but little clover, or rye grass sown. The gardens yield the ordinary vegetables.

Imports and Exports.—The articles imported are, meal, flour, oats, butter, cheese, whisky, foreign spirits, salt, timber, tar, and all kinds of mercantile goods. There were entered inwards, in the year 1791, at the port of Fort-William, coastwise, 8,000 bolls of oatmeal; which, at the average price of 16s. 8d. *per* boll, is 6666l. 13s. 4d. But only about 2500

bolls were used in the parish, the rest being sold to other countries: 2500 bolls, at the above price, come to 2083*l*. 6*s*. 8*d*. We may safely say, that the parish pays at least, that sum for meal every year; for seldom, very seldom, it is, that it sells so reasonably, as is above stated. Of whisky, there are annually imported into the parish, and drunk in it, about 15,000 gallons, which, at 4*s*. each gallon, costs 3,000*l*. The exports are, fish, wool, sheep, horses, and black cattle. During the summer and harvest 1791, there were taken, by the people of the parish, about 3,000 barrels of herrings, which, at 18*s*. *per* barrel, is 2700 *l*.

ACCOUNT of Wool sent coastwise, from the port of Fort-William, for 3 years preceding the 5th day of January 1792.

| | | | <i>cwt.</i> | <i>qrs.</i> | <i>lb.</i> |
|---|---|---|-------------|-------------|------------|
| From 5th January 1789, to 5th January 1790, | - | - | 2737 | 3 | 24 |
| From 5th January 1790, to 5th January 1791, | - | - | 2652 | 2 | 8 |
| From 5th January 1791, to 5th January 1792, | - | - | 3593 | 2 | 1 |
| In all, | | | 8985 | 0 | 5 |

Or, 41,930 stones, at 24 *lbs.* English to each stone. Two thirds of the wool are white, and one third is tarred.

| <i>Stones.</i> | <i>lbs.</i> | | <i>£.</i> | <i>s.</i> | <i>d.</i> |
|--|-------------|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 27,953 | 8, | at 7 <i>s</i> . 6 <i>d.</i> <i>per</i> stone, amount to | - | - | - |
| 13,976 | 16, | at 5 <i>s</i> . 6 <i>d.</i> <i>per</i> stone, amount to | - | - | - |
| 41930 | 0 | Total of wool exported in 3 years, | 14326 | 1 | 8 |
| The annual average produce of wool, exported from Fort-William, is therefore | | | 4775 | 7 | 2½ |

The greatest part of the above wool, was sent coastwise to Liverpool, and other ports in England. Let it be observed, however, that it includes much more than the produce of this parish, in which there are only 60,000 sheep. Something more

more than 6 fleeces generally go to each stone, which is equal to about 10,000 stones.

| Stones. | lbs. | | | | L. | s. | d. |
|---------|------|--|---|---|-------|----|----|
| 6666 | 14, | at 7s. 6d. <i>per</i> stone, come to | - | - | 2499 | 19 | 4½ |
| 3333 | 10, | at 5s. 6d. <i>per</i> stone, come to | - | - | 916 | 13 | 9½ |
| <hr/> | | | | | <hr/> | | |
| 10000 | 0 | Total annual produce of the wool of this parish, | | | 3416 | 13 | 2 |
| | | | | | <hr/> | | |

Population.—The introduction of sheep, it is obvious, has a tendency to diminish the number of inhabitants in particular districts *. In this parish, however, from the operation of peculiar circumstances, the population has increased considerably, and is still on the increase. It is not easy, *now*, to determine the exact proportion of people that remain, compared with those who have been obliged to remove. From a medium statement of several farms, in different situations, they appear to have been nearly three times as populous, as they are at present. But one fourth of the parish is still under black cattle, and contains as great a number of people as

3 H 2

ever.

* There is an absolute necessity of preserving the grass, during summer and harvest, upon the low grounds, for the use of the sheep in winter and spring ;—for, otherwise, they run a risk of perishing. This could not be done, were the same number of people, as formerly, to live there, and to cultivate lands for their own subsistence. Besides, the number of cows and horses, they would require, would entirely consume the grass. Proprietors, it is said, have made repeated trials of letting their lands, among the former tenants, jointly, provided they would stock them with sheep, and agree among themselves, with regard to their respective shares. But every instance of this kind, has proved unsuccessful in the end. And, indeed, it is almost impossible, that a multitude of people can agree in managing a joint stock of sheep, and bringing the produce to market. Schemes of this kind, consequently, how plausible soever they may seem in theory, will ever fail of success in practice; and experience has demonstrated the absurdity of such an attempt. The fact is, that sheep farms cannot be let with prudence, or advantage, to a number of tenants; and the introduction of sheep must, of course, diminish the number of tenants in particular districts.

ever. And of those, who have been dispossessed, very few have quitted the parish. They go and reside in Maryburgh ; as several also do from other neighbouring parishes ; which accounts for the increasing populousness of that village. Besides which, the women, in general, are very prolific, frequently bringing forth twins ; and, in September last, (1792), two women were delivered of 3 children each at a birth. Every marriage commonly produces from 5 to 7 children. For several reasons, it is almost impossible to keep an exact and a complete register of baptisms and marriages, in so extensive a parish as this. Unless the clergyman, at the time of celebrating these ordinances, write down, in a memorandum book, the names of the parties, and transmit them afterwards to the session clerk, they will never be registered ; for the parties themselves either neglect, or disregard to do it. Besides, it is believed, that the Papists and Episcopalians keep a separate register of their own births and marriages. And, of deaths, no register has ever yet been attempted to be kept in the parish. By the most exact calculation, the number of souls is

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|------|
| number of souls is | - | - | - | - | 4225 |
| The return to Dr. Webster, in 1755, was | - | - | - | - | 3093 |

| | | | | | |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|------|
| Increase, | - | - | - | - | 1132 |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|------|

| | | |
|--|---|-----|
| The inhabitants, in the garrison, however, being included in the above number, and not enumerated in the return to Dr. Webster, must be deducted | } | 194 |
| | | |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|-----|
| Exact increase in 37 years, | - | - | - | 938 |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|-----|

Of the above number, about 1200 live in Maryburgh and Fort-William ; and of these there are

Merchants,

Language.—The Gaelic is the mother tongue of the natives; and, it is thought, that in this, and some neighbouring parishes, it is spoken in its greatest purity. Though the Gaelic be the original language, there are very few people, especially of the younger class, who do not understand and speak English. It is remarkable, yet not the less true, that the illiterate Highlander, who is a stranger to every other language but the Gaelic, speaks it more fluently, more elegantly, and more purely, than the scholar *.

Village.—*Maryburgh*, or *Gordonburgh*, is the only one of note in the parish, and is situated upon the sea shore, south side of Locheile, within a few yards to the south-west of Fort-William. Anciently, the place where it stands, was called *Auchintore-beg*. The village was then built on the ground where the Esplanade is now. It was after the accession of the Prince of Orange to the British throne, that it obtained the name of Maryburgh, in honour of his royal consort. For some time past, it has been indiscriminately called Maryburgh and Gordonburgh, from the family of Gordon, whose property

* The name of almost every place in Caledonia, is derived from the Gaelic; so that it is unnecessary to enumerate many instances. *Corpach*, a place close to the shore, on an angle of Locheile, is a compound, signifying the *field of corpses*. It is well known, that men of note were anciently interred in Iona. Such as were brought from the north of this parish, were kept in state at Corpach for a night, or perhaps longer. Hence the original of the name. *Osbiniach* is another place upon the shore of Lochleven, where the dead, brought from Perthshire, were embarked for the consecrated ground of Iona, and means a *groan*, or deep conflicting sigh of lamentation. Perhaps women were hired to set up the *Gornach*. *Lochaber*, or *Loch-nu-capper*, signifies the *Lake of Horns*. Indeed it deserves not the name of lake, being a small pool in the moss of Corpach. The tradition is; that the deer, in the routing season, fought about this lake, and lost their horns. Hence the whole country has received its name.

perty it is. It is in a thriving way, and with their countenance and patronage, is likely to become a distinguished place.

Fort-William—Stands upon the south side of a small gulph of that arm of the sea, called Lochcille; where, by the turn of the mountains, it forms itself into an angle, and receives the rivers Lochy and Nevis. It is situated upon a plain, almost level with the sea. Upon the opposite shore, there is another of a much larger extent, upon the same level, which widens, and exceedingly beautifies the prospect. These plains are surrounded with mountains, which were once covered with woods, and are watered with many springs and rivulets.

The fort was first built during the usurpation of *Oliver Cromwell*, by the advice and direction of Monk. It occupied more ground at that time than it does now, and consisted of 2,000 effective troops. Colonel Braym was the first, I believe, who was appointed governor. The fort was then distinguished by the name of the "Garrison of Inverlochy."—In the time of King William, it was rebuilt, on a less scale, with stone and lime. In the year 1746, it stood a siege of 5 weeks, which commenced 24th February, and was raised 3d April following, with the loss only of 6 men killed, and 24 wounded*. The fort is, by no means, a place of strength. For these two years past, all the men in it have been only a company of invalids. Besides, some years ago, about a fourth part of the wall was undermined, and swept away by the river Nevis: It has ever since been fast going to ruin, and there appears not the most distant prospect of its being repaired. General James Murray is the present governor of the fort; Lord Forbes is deputy-governor; and
Captain

* A journal of the siege, had been kept by one of the officers in the garrison, a copy of which is in the possession of the writer hereof.

Captain Thomas Cochrane, commanding officer. A post-office was established at Fort-William in the year 1764.—There is a mason-lodge; and a jail, in which there have been, in all, since 1781, for various crimes, 48 prisoners, many of them for trivial offences.

Rent and Proprietors.—The valued rent of the parish, is 434l. 14s. 4d. Ster.; the real gross rent, about 5200l.; the lands, rent at 4723 l. 8s. 11 d.; the salmon fishing, upon the river Lochy, rents at about 230 l.; still water fishing, at 27 l.; houses rent at about 200 l. The following table shows the proprietors in the parish*; their rental, valued and real; and the superiors of whom they hold their lands. The three last reside in it.

| | Valuations. | Real Rents. | Superiors. |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------------------|
| Mr. Cameron of Incheile, | L.250 0 0 | L.1500 0 0 | { Dukes of Argyll and Gordon. |
| Mr. McLean of Ardgour §, | 78 11 1 | 1663 8 11 | { Duke of Argyll and Crown §. |
| Duke of Gordon, | 34 8 10 | 300 0 0 | Crown. |
| Mr. Cameron of Glenevis, | 30 16 8 | 500 0 0 | Duke of Gordon. |
| Mr. Cameron of Falsfern | 30 5 6 | 660 0 0 | { Dukes of Gordon and Argyll. |
| Mr. Cameron of Kinlochleven, | 10 12 3 | 100 0 0 | Duke of Gordon. |
| | L.434 14 4 | L.4723 8 11 | |

Improved Value of Land.—Since the year 1764, when sheep were first introduced into the parish, the value of land has augmented considerably;—in general, to triple what it then was. Farms, under long leases, must be excepted. Of these there are only a few, which were granted by the commissioners upon the annexed estates. Where there are but short leases

* Changes of property are not frequent; not above three instances having occurred within these 150 years.

§ Ardgour does not hold so much of the Crown, as intitles him to a vote.

leases granted by landlords, improvements will advance very slowly. There are some lands in the parish, which are esteemed high rented.—The great augmentation of rents must be attributed, principally, to the mode adopted, of stocking farms with sheep. They require a smaller number of hands to tend them, than black cattle; can graze in places where these would not venture, and yield a greater produce. This, it will be acknowledged, is a strong temptation to proprietors, who value *money* more than *men*, to encourage sheep-farming*.—There are 93 farms in the parish: The average extent of each, is 6½ square miles; and the average annual rent, about 50 l. Sterling. Of these 93 farms, 54 belong to Locheile, and 18 to Ardour;—and of these last 18, 2 farms rent at 100 l. each; 2 at 260 l. each; and one at 340 l. The lowest at 30 l.

Churches, &c.—There are 9 places of worship in the parish. Besides the established minister, there is a missionary, appointed by the committee for managing his Majesty's royal bounty, who resides at Fort-William, and another, who officiates in the parish once a month. The minister of a mission, in some neighbouring parishes, also resides in Kilmalie, besides a preacher of the gospel. Once a month, a Popish and a Non-juring clergyman, preach within the bounds of the parish.

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* A periodical writer has proposed to mingle corn and sheep farms together, in such proportions, that the latter may purchase the fruits of the former. The adoption of this scheme, he thinks, would prevent emigration. In the south of Scotland, such a plan might answer; but, in this parish, it is totally impracticable. For what is the land in tillage, compared to the hill grounds? The vallies could easily be cultivated, but what would then become of the grass upon the hills? There, the sheep graze all summer and harvest, but must be brought to the straths to feed during winter and spring; and, consequently, very little crop can be reared. The bulk of the people, therefore, must remove, either to towns or villages in the neighbourhood, or out of the country.

The number of members of the Established Church, is 3715, —of Papists, 103,—and of Nonjurors, 407. It is not long, since the number of Papists amounted only to 35. The increase is owing to their flocking into Maryburgh, from the neighbouring countries, when dispossessed of their lands.—Until the year 1779, the living was worth no more than 52 l. 10 s. Sterling annually; neither was there any allowance made for communion elements; and even yet, it is only 69 l. 10 s., and 3 l. 6 s. 8 d. for communion elements. There is no manse. The heritors allow, in place thereof, and for deficiency of glebe, the sum of 11 l. 13 s. 4 d. An excellent parish church was built, in the year 1783, which cost 440 l.; and, last year, another was built, in Maryburgh, by the Duke of Gordon and the inhabitants, that cost somewhat more. The Duke of Argyll has always been reckoned the patron of the parish; but, it is said, that he has made over his right of patronage to Lochcille, with whom the Duke of Gordon disputes it. Principal Campbell, of the University of Glasgow, was predecessor to the present incumbent.

Schools.—The parochial school is at Fort-William; which, if not the most central place, is at least the most populous in the parish. Here, the languages and mathematics are taught. The number of the scholars, attending, is about 150. The salary is 16 l. 13 s. 4 d.; which, with the school fees, session-clerk's salary, and the dues for christenings and marriages, will be equal to about 90 l., or 100 l. Sterling annually. Besides this school, there are 5 others, on the establishment of the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge. To one of these, they grant a salary of 22 l., and to the rest 12 l. each. There is also a catechist, employed between this and Kilmanivaig parish, with a salary of 12 l. Sterling.

Poor.—The poor of this parish wander about, and beg from door to door, to the grave : For the funds, appropriated to their use, are very inadequate to their necessities, being the Sunday collections, which may amount to something better than 20 l. a-year ; and the interest of 18 l., being donations made, at different times, by the following persons, viz.

| | | |
|--|---|-----------|
| Alexander Cameron, tacksmen of Strone, | - | L. 10 0 0 |
| Dugald Cameron, tenant at Stronlie, | - | 3 0 0 |
| James M'Cawl, tenant at Drumerbine, | - | 3 0 0 |
| John Cameron, tenant at Clachaig, | - | 1 10 0 |
| John M'Phee, tenant at Glendessary, | - | 0 10 0 |
| | | <hr/> |
| | | L. 18 0 0 |

Last year Major Cameron, of Erract, sent to the writer of this article 20 l. Sterling, for the immediate relief of the poor ; and he has since distributed among them upwards of 20 l. more himself. There are no stated times for dividing the poor's money ; and some are relieved oftener than others. If any are reduced to poverty by accident, disease, or calamity, there is an extraordinary collection made for their relief.

COMPARATIVE VIEW

Of the Prices of Provisions, &c. in the years 1771 and 1791.

| 1771. | 1791. |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Beef and mutton, <i>per</i> lib. 1½d. | Beef and mutton, 2½d. or 3d. |
| A goose, 1s. 2d. | A goose, from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. |
| A hen, from 2d. to 3d. | A Hen, 6d. to 8d. |
| Butter, <i>per</i> lib. 4d. | Butter, 8d. |
| Cheese, <i>per</i> stone 2s. 6d. | Cheese, 6d. |
| Salmon, <i>per</i> lib. 1d. | Salmon, 3d. to 4d. |
| Eggs, <i>per</i> dozen, 1d. | Eggs, 2d. to 3d. |
| Potatoes, <i>per</i> peck, (<i>scanned</i>), 6d. | Potatoes, 7d. to 9d. |
| Barley, <i>per</i> boll. 16s. | Barley, 2l. 1s. |
| Oats, <i>per</i> boll, 10s. | Oats, 13s. 4d. to 15s. |
| Coals, <i>per</i> ton, 18s. | Coals, 18s. to 1l. |
| A boat load of peats, 4s. 6d. | A boat load of peats, 9s. to 12s. |
| Pork, <i>per</i> lib. 2d. | Pork, 3d. |
| | A pig, 1l. to 2l. |
| | A duck, 1s. |
| | A goat, 5s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. |
| | A calf, 2s. 6d. to 5s. |

Antiquities.—Upon the banks of the river Lochy, on the north side, about 4 miles above Fort-William, there are the remains of an ancient castle, concerning which the M. S. history of the house of Locheile says, “that it was built by the chief of that family, in the reign of Queen Mary.” The probability is, however, that it is of a much more ancient date; and the tradition of the country is, that it was built at the same time with the castle of Inverness. An additional probability, of its being built long before the reign of the unfortunate Mary, is, that *Bancho*, Thane of *Lochaber*, (the ancestor of the royal house of Stewart), had his castle in this neighbourhood; and,

and, a little below the site of Torrecastle, there is a most beautiful walk, about a quarter of a mile long, that still retains his name. Along this sweet walk, on the one hand, flows the Lochy; on the other, there is a delightful bank, which is at present planted with fir, and which was then, undoubtedly, covered, with stately wood. There is still remaining, of this building, a wall of 40. or 50 feet, and a vault, almost entire, which could be converted into an excellent cellar. Of old, when fire arms were unknown, it certainly was a very strong place. It stands on the brink of a frightful precipice, at the bottom of which the river forces its passage through rocks, and has been secured on the land side, by a ditch and draw-bridge. The traces of the ditch are still very visible*. On the side of the glen, opposite to the south west part of Benevis, lie scattered in ruins, the last vestiges of a very ancient building, which, in a few years hence, will be entirely demolished, by the

* One of the face of the rock, on which the ruins stand, grows an aged venerable ash, luxuriant in branches, where a pair of crows had settled, and continued to hatch for a number of years. But, of late, the nest has been overturned, from real wantonness, and its inhabitants scared away.—Many things concur to make this a scene of mixed pleasure and grandeur. Below, there is a black deep gulph, that makes the heart recoil; the roar of the water, foaming and forcing its way, amidst rocks, has a wonderful effect upon the mind, while the salmon, are seen struggling against its streams. Upon the other side of the river, are beheld lambs skipping along its banks, while the heath is covered with sheep, which inspire pleasantness and gaiety. At some distance, Benevis seems to threaten the neighbouring hills with destruction. Here and there, are seen some plots of ashy ground, and the corn changing its colour from green to yellow. The golden rays of the setting sun, glittering on the water, and darting through the green boughs, heighten the picturesque scenery. A few yards farther down the river, there is a small island, that is covered with large ancient fir, where a vast number of herons nestle, whose noise is heard at a considerable distance. A scene in which the heart, the mind, and the imagination, are at once interested, is surely no mean object. Within a few yards of this ruinous castle, the present minister of the parish resides. There are a number of *tumuli* in the parish.

the ravages of all-conquering time. It is forgotten in the annals of fame, and tradition itself, has hardly been able to preserve the name it bore; viz.

Dundhairdghall.—It stands upon the very summit of a green hill, about 400 yards perpendicular in height. The traces of the building are still visible; and the part now remaining runs round the whole top of the hill, (the compass of which is 150 yards), not in any regular form, but following exactly the verge of the steep, so as to command the greatest strength possible. The figure is nearly oval. By its situation upon this elevated spot, it commands part of Mamore, and the whole of Glenevis, and must have been originally intended for a place of defence. This opinion seems to be confirmed by the size of the work, and by its being in sight of the castle of Inverlochy*. Dundhairdghall appears to have been a fort of great antiquity, and not inferior, in this respect, to Inverlochy castle: indeed, of the two, it seems the more ancient. It is thought to have served as an outwork for strengthening that place, when it was a royal residence. Authentic information is upon record, of the kings of Scotland having resided at Inverlochy, in the time of Charles the Great of France: and this need not seem surprising, when we reflect that Scotland was then, most probably, confined within very narrow bounds. Granting the probability of the co-antiquity of these buildings, Dundhairdghall is not less than 1,000 years old. The part of the wall that remains, is no more than from 2 to 4 feet high, and is vitrified all round. As this naturally renders stone more friable, it has probably accelerated the downfall of the building. How the fire has been applied, can be only conjectured.

* Inverlochy castle is within less than 2 miles of Fort-William, but in the parish of Kilmanivaig.

jectured*. Of the æra, history, and use of this place, tradition is totally silent. And, in fact, when the history of Inverlochy castle itself is involved in so much obscurity and fable, no wonder that its watch-tower should moulder into forgetfulness and oblivion†.

Eminent Men.—Of these the parish has not been wholly barren. In the reign of James I., flourished JAMES CAMERON, a native of this parish, who was bishop of Glasgow, chancellor of Scotland, and first minister to that monarch. He was a man of great learning, and a profound statesman‡.—In the reign of Queen Mary, lived JOHN CAMERON, minister of Du-noon; a person of great probity and learning, and father to the “great CAMERON, who was then the most famous Protestant divine living. He past his younger years in the University of Glasgow; and leaving his own country, when he “was very young, he arrived at Bourdeaux in 1660, where “he was much noticed for his great qualities and progress in “learning. He taught divinity, for three years, at Lamur, “and seemed to embrace the opinion of Arminius, in support “of which he published many treatises.”—Sir EWEN CAMERON was born in 1629, and died in 1719. Of this gentleman, the author of this article could say much, having materials in his hands for several pages§. JOHN INNES, another native of this parish, is well known to the medical student, by his *Treatise on the Muscles*, and his anatomical tables of the human

* See an account of vitrified forts, published by Alexander Fraser Tytler, Esq.

† Notwithstanding these fragments of ancient fortification, there have been no battles, in this parish, of any consequence; but frequent skirmishes between the clans, Cameron and M^r Intosh.

‡ Vide Buchanan, b. XI.

§ See a good account of him in Penant's Tour, second edition.

human body.—The last man of genius, born in the parish, whom we shall mention, is Mr. ROBERT GRAY, who bid fair to shine, had he lived ; but, being born with a delicate constitution, he literally fell a sacrifice to his thirst for literature. He died at Edinburgh, 6th January 1791*.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—The great extent of sea shore has been already mentioned as an advantage to the parish ; nor are the mild winters, and the easy communication with other parts of the world, among the least of them. The parish, in general, is well provided with excellent peats, which is the chief fuel that is used. Fort-William, however, is ill supplied with this necessary article. And, indeed, were the duty taken off coals, none who live upon the shore would burn any other fuel. Thus, much time, that is now unavoidably taken up in procuring the article of fire, would be saved ; and many hands might be employed in fishing, and other useful occupations, that, at present, are neglected. Another great disadvantage, but not peculiar to this parish alone, is the duty upon salt. There are other inconveniences and disadvantages, that are peculiar to this parish, especially to Fort-William and Maryburgh, but which could be removed without any great expence. Some of these are, the want of a quay, of a
regular

* In a few days after, the following character of him appeared in the papers :
 " On Sunday last died here, at the age of 20, Mr. Robert Gray of Lofs, late
 " president of the Royal Medical and Royal Physical Societies, Edinburgh, most
 " sincerely lamented by the whole University. It is difficult to say, whether
 " more admiration was excited by his acquisition in every branch of science, at
 " so early a period, or more love and esteem by the sincerity and disinterestedness
 " of his friendship, joined to the most amiable and engaging manners. The
 " heart-felt grief of his fellow students, who have often been delighted by his
 " eloquence, and instructed by his erudition, is the most unequivocal testimony
 " to his worth, and will long continue to be the most flattering tribute to his me-
 " rit, though it may embitter the loss sustained by his relations."

regular weekly market, of good water, of a tannery, of a saw mill, and of a manufactory.

Proposed Improvements.—In stormy weather, vessels, lying at Fort William, are obliged to unmoor, and cross to the opposite shore: where, indeed, there is a pretty safe harbour, and good anchorage, called *Camusfugaul*. This is always attended with additional expence and loss of time, and sometimes the vessels receive damage upon the banks. All this could be avoided, if only 400l. were laid out in building a proper quay. But, small as this sum is, the merchants of Fort William are unable to advance it. The Duke of Gordon, who is proprietor of the place, is the only person from whom assistance can be expected. But the necessity, or utility of such a work, has never been represented to him. There is a still greater necessity of establishing at Fort William, a weekly market for butcher meat and other articles. For want of this, people seldom have it in their power to purchase fresh meat; and all winter and spring they feed upon salt provisions. This could be easily remedied, and some of the neighbouring sheep farmers would find it their interest, were they to sell some of their flock to a butcher in the place.

Abundance of good water could easily, and at a small expence, be conducted by pipes. This ought to be done by Government, because the garrison is much worse supplied than the village.—The only objection, against a tannery, is, that there are too few cattle killed in the country, for keeping such a work going. But, then, would it not be an easy matter to import undressed hides, and to tan them here? This is done in other places.—Against the erection of a saw mill, there can be no solid objection. There was one formerly on the river Archaig; but it did not answer the purpose, on account of its distance from the garrison; and was therefore

discontinued. A vast quantity of timber is imported yearly to Fort William, and 6 sawers are constantly employed about it: Whereas a mill would saw more in a few days, than all the 6 would do in a twelvemonth. It should be built upon the Nevis, within a few yards of the foot.

What would be of still greater benefit to this parish, and likewise to all the surrounding countries, would be the establishment of a manufactory of coarse woollen cloth. If nations consider the exportation of raw materials, as one of the greatest disadvantages and misfortunes, is it not to be regretted, that 10,000 stones of wool should be annually exported, from this parish alone, to Liverpool, and other ports of England, whence it is sometimes returned to ourselves, after it is wrought into cloth? Thus the English manufacturer and merchant are enriched by the produce of our country, while hundreds of our own people are idle and unemployed throughout the whole year*.

But the improvement that would be of the greatest advantage to the parish, and indeed to the whole kingdom, would be,

* This extreme tardiness in improvements must, in a great degree, be attributed to the want of public spirit, and of liberal sentiments, in many of the landholders; for whose benefit it may not be improper to insert the following lines, composed *extempore*, a few years ago, by a gentleman, a highland proprietor, when at Laurencekirk, on his way to Edinburgh, by way of apostrophe to Lord GARDENSTONE:

- " If Rome, from a dirty and mean pauntry village,
- " Arose to such grandeur, by plunder and pillage,
- " What may not the Patron of LAURENCEKIRK hope,
- " Before arts and science and industry drop?
- " Had our Lords, or our Lairds, but the half of thy merit,
- " The tenth of thy sense, or the twelfth of thy spirit;
- " Our poor would be rich, and our rich would be great,
- " And quite independent of minions of state."

be, to cut a canal between the west and east seas. Without aid from government, it is too great an undertaking for private individuals. It could easily be accomplished; for there are 3 large lakes intervening, viz. Lochy, Oich, and Ness, where ships of the line might sail. Two miles of dry land are the utmost distance, following the course of the lakes and rivers issuing from them, betwixt Fort William and Inverness. The channels of the rivers would require to be made deeper and wider, and in some places, no doubt, altered entirely. Were this passage opened, the long and dangerous navigation by the Pentland Frith would be avoided.—Another canal, from the head of Locheile to Loch Sheil, would be of very great advantage to this parish. The distance, between these two lochs, is between 3 and 4 miles of a soft moss. From Loch Sheil a river runs into the sea of about a mile long. The benefit of such a canal would be experienced by all navigators, going from the north to the Clyde; the dangerous point of Ardnarmurchan would not then be dreaded by them.

Manner of living prior to the year 1764.—All the arable ground was carefully cultivated, and sowed, mostly with oats. If the returns were few, the rents were low. Farms were divided into small proportions among the occupants; yet their cattle were grazed in common, every tenant having cattle in proportion to the share of rent which he paid. The cattle were nevertheless appropriated, and each had his own, and their fruits. Besides black cattle, they had a few sheep and goats; out of which, they could, at any time, afford to take part for the use of their families. And, as they had plenty of milk, butter and cheese, and a good deal of oats, they lived very comfortably. In return, they were always ready to perform for their landlords every kind of service. This was rarely an involuntary service. For, when they had the

felicity to have a good master, their attachment to him was strong and ardent. Instances of such are fresh in the memory of many living: and there have been *proprietors, who never removed a tenant*; and *tenants, who never sought a discharge for their rents*. Landlords, when indulgent, actually possessed all the authority and love of a magistrate, of a protector and a father. In those days, however, the tenants were ill lodged, and as ill clothed.

Manner of living upon Sheep Farms, anno 1791.—The people subsist, as may naturally be expected, in a great measure, upon the offals of the flock. If they live apart, as herds, they have each a stone of oat-meal per week, from the possessor, together with grass for 2 cows, and 70 sheep; and they may plant as much potatoes, for their own use, as they can cultivate. They live very comfortably, and generally save some money. They are well accommodated in clothes and bedding; which is a consequence of their more extensive commerce with the world, and of the abundance of wool. Travelling the hills, to look after the sheep, is their usual employment; excepting at the smearing and shearing seasons, when they gather them all down to the low grounds, and take them by parcels for these purposes.—Shepherds, who live in their masters houses, have their maintenance, and grass for 70 sheep, or so. Their allowance and profits are far superior to those of domestic work servants. Their sheep are marked for themselves, and the produce sold commonly with the master's, and at the same price*.

Character,

* Servants are kept, either for tending and managing sheep, or for black cattle. The former are few in proportion: two shepherds are sufficient for any ordinary farm, capable of grazing 1,460 sheep. If they live in their master's house, they have, besides their maintenance, grass for 70 sheep. If the shepherd be married, and keep a family of his own, he has grass for a cow, and 60

sheep

Martial Spirit.—Upon the sea coast, the people are fond of a sea-faring life. Their disposition, however, leads them to delight more in the sound of the pipe, and in the clang of arms, than in the majesty of the tempest; thinking it more honourable to serve in the field of Mars, than in the empire of Neptune. By an authentic register, it appears, that, during the war in 1756, *Kilmalie* and *Kilmanivaig* parishes, between them, furnished 750 men to the army and navy. It is almost needless to say, that the natives of *Lochaber* prefer enlisting in Highland regiments; and it is perhaps equally so to mention, what valour and conduct they have displayed, and what glory they have acquired, under prudent commanders. The Legislature would then surely act wisely, by encouraging such a useful and warlike body of men, to remain in their native country. No step, however, has hitherto been taken for that purpose; and the system adopted by the landlords, of farming their estates,

sheep, or thereabout, and a stone of meal per week: All of which are equal to about 20*l.*—If a servant be employed for the purposes of husbandry, and lives by himself, with a family, but ready to answer when called on, to assist in the work of the farm, he is paid as follows:

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|-------|----|---|
| Graze for 2 cows, valued at | - | - | - | - | L. 2 | 10 | 0 |
| Dirto for 20 sheep, valued at | - | - | - | - | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Lands for potatoes, &c. valued at | - | - | - | - | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Maintenance, when working for his master, valued at | - | - | - | - | 3 | 10 | 0 |
| Oat-meal, 3 1-half bolls, valued at | - | - | - | - | 2 | 18 | 4 |
| Cash, | - | - | - | - | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | <hr/> | | |
| | | | | | L. 16 | 18 | 4 |

He has also the use of his master's horses.

Upon black cattle farms, the wages are something different. Domestic servants men have from 5*l.* to 6*l.*; women, from 50*s.* to 3*l.* In harvest, or in time of cutting peats, the men have 2*s.* per day, and the women from 6*d.* to 8*d.*, with their dinner.

estates, tends to extirpate and compel them to seek bread in foreign climes. Admitting that they receive employment in the Low Countries, debility and effeminacy would there soon extinguish their heroic spirit and martial ardour.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The greatest height, which any individual in the parish has attained, is 6 feet $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches, without shoes and stockings. The general size of the people is 5 feet $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches; they are tight and well-built.—There are 2 four wheel chaises, one of them belonging to the vintner at Fort William, which he lets to travellers: There are other 3 kinds of machines of two wheels each; one of these also belongs to the same vintner. There may be about two dozen carts. Sledges are chiefly used in leading home hay and corn. Peats, for the most part, are carried in creels upon horseback.—There are between 80 and 100 boats in the parish. Of these, 60 belong to Maryburgh; where there are also 4 sloops, from 20 to 40 tons, and 1 brig of 200 tons.—There are 8 slated ferries; 5 of which are on the salt water.—Bridges and government roads are in a good state; but the country roads, which are carried on at the expence of the counties, have been, and still are, much neglected. The statute labour is commuted at 6d. per day.—In 1782 and 1783, the parish was remarkably well supplied with provisions. The Duke of Gordon sent two cargoes for its relief, one of pease meal, and the other of potatoes; and the Commissioners of the Annexed Estates sent two more, one of oats and pease, and the other of potatoes.—There are no ale-houses in the parish, but many whisky retailers. Indeed they are so numerous, that they are a nuisance, and tend, very much, to encourage idleness, and to corrupt the morals of the people. In Fort-William there are two inns; and, in almost every other house in Maryburgh, whisky is sold.—There are 4 students attending universities.—The prevailing

prevailing name in the parish is *Cameron*.—There have been two instances of suicide *.

NUMBER

* The following character of the people, drawn up by a friend of the incumbent's, does not seem to err, on, what is too commonly the case, the side of partiality; and it is therefore given, as in general the clergy are accused of having transmitted accounts, rather too favourable, of the manners and morals of their parishioners.

Character of the People.—"They are sometimes accused of being given to change; but many instances of steady and unshaken friendship are not wanting. In professions of kindness they are profuse; and their sincerity, in general, is more to be depended on, than is usual on such occasions. They are inquisitive, but (more especially after having had the advantage of some intercourse with the world at large), distinguished by the politeness of their manners, and the insinuation of their address: Fond of sauntering in idleness, but less addicted to a roving life than heretofore: Though poor, inclined to indolence; and though naturally sagacious and intelligent, yet not in general learned: Less revengeful and implacable than formerly, and, now, more disposed to determine matters by litigation, than by arms; family dissensions imbitter not their lives, as in the feudal times: Impatient of restraint; yet, when under a proper leader, in whom they have confidence, invincible by fatigue, cold, or hunger: Intrepid, equal to any race of men ever known, in the midst of the greatest dangers: Less hospitable than of old, (indeed the old exertions of hospitality are not now so necessary as formerly;) but when feasts are prepared, the cheer is good: Spirited in a high degree to promote works of public utility: Charitable and willing to relieve the distressed, as far as their circumstances will admit of: Though no strangers to the power and influence of religion, yet rather apt to undervalue its holy ordinances: Fond of spirituous liquors, yet seldom habitual drunkards: They deserve praise for their continence; but are rather addicted to swearing.—These are some of the predominant traits; and though there must be a great variety of character among 4,225 persons, yet there are, in this district, no inconsiderable proportion of persons, distinguished by their generosity, humanity, disinterestedness, benevolence, hospitality, temperance, piety, and religion."

NUMBER XXV.

PARISH OF TORRYBURN.

*(County and Synod of Fife—Presbytery of Dumfriesline)**By the Rev. Mr. DAVID BALFOUR.**Erection and Name.*

THE parish, now known by the name of Torryburn, includes the parishes of *Torry* and *Crombie*. When their union took place, cannot be ascertained; but it appears, from certain papers relating to the stipend, that it must have been before the year 1623. The name of the former, *Torry*, signifies, in Gaelic, the *King's Height*, and, with the addition of *burn*, the Scotch word for a rivulet, is now the general name of both. This addition seems to have been suggested by a small stream, which runs along the south east part of the principal village in the parish, and divides the two baronies of Torry and Crombie*.

Situation

3

* The names of the places, in the parish, are partly English, and partly Gaelic. The English names are expressive, either of the local situation, or of the name of

Situation and Extent.—It lies on the western extremity of the county of Fife. Its extent is inconsiderable, being only, from E. to W. about 2 miles, the same in breadth on the east quarter, and nearly the same on the west, if the lands, which are in the parish only *quoad sacra*, are included. From N. W. to S. E. it will measure between 4 and 5 miles.

Soil and Cultivation.—The soil, throughout the parish, is naturally good, and in general well cultivated, particularly the lands of Torry, all of which are inclosed, and in the highest state of improvement. These lands, when laid down in grass, make excellent pasturage. The succession of crops on the Torry estate, (most of which is at present in the hands of the proprietor), is in general as follows:—turnips, barley, red clover, wheat, beans, oats. The ground is well dunged for the turnips, and well limed for the wheat. This method of cropping, has been found to succeed very well. The lands, in general, let from 20s. to 40s. per acre.—The time of sowing pease, beans, and oats, is from the middle of March till the middle of April. Barley is commonly sown in the month of

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May,

of the original proprietor. Thus, *Moorfide*, situated on the side of a moor; *Grey Crag*, situated near a stone quarry; *Milltown Row*, a row of houses situated near where a mill once stood; *Knowhead*, situated on the top of a rising ground; *Annusfield*, the field of Ann. The Gaelic names, *Torry*, (above mentioned); *Iamruar*, a place seen from a distance; *Drumfin*, or rather *fan*, the ridge of Fingal, and probably *Crambis* and *Pitculvie*.—There were two persons belonging to this place, who accompanied Lord Anson in his voyage round the world, in the years 1741-2-3, and who came to England with him in the year 1744. The proportion of prize-money, which, in the course of this expedition, fell to the share of one of these men, was pretty considerable. Upon his return home, he purchased a small piece of ground, and built a house upon it, which he called *Timian*, after the beautiful and fertile island of that name in the Pacific Ocean, and to which the crew of the *Centurion*, the Commodore's ship, and the only remaining one of the squadron, owed their preservation.

Besides these different seams, there is, on the north parts of Torry, a fine parrot coal, in thickness 4 feet, which is very valuable, and is said to sell in the London market, at a higher price than any other.—There is also very good iron stone in the parish, some of which has been wrought.

Population.—This parish, though inconsiderable in regard to extent, is pretty populous. Upon a survey of the inhabitants, taken last year (1791), they amounted to 1,600 souls. The return to Doctor Webster in 1755, was 1,635. The following table will shew the medium of marriages, births, and burials for the last 20 years.

| Years. | Mar. | Births. | Bur. |
|--------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1772 | 20 | 75 | 34 |
| 3 | 17 | 67 | 68 |
| 4 | 15 | 78 | 30 |
| 5 | 15 | 69 | 36 |
| 6 | 11 | 63 | 36 |
| 7 | 11 | 77 | 62 |
| 8 | 15 | 81 | 47 |
| 9 | 9 | 70 | 48 |
| 1780 | 11 | 68 | 41 |
| 1 | 8 | 61 | 34 |
| | <u>132</u> | <u>709</u> | <u>436</u> |

Ann. Av. nearly 13 70 43

| Years. | Mar. | Births. | Bur. |
|--------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1782 | 10 | 63 | 44 |
| 3 | 6 | 60 | 62 |
| 4 | 18 | 66 | 34 |
| 5 | 23 | 62 | 56 |
| 6 | 16 | 57 | 36 |
| 7 | 16 | 66 | 56 |
| 8 | 10 | 52 | 22 |
| 9 | 12 | 54 | 42 |
| 1790 | 17 | 43 | 59 |
| 1 | 7 | 57 | 40 |
| | <u>135</u> | <u>580</u> | <u>451</u> |

Ann. Av. nearly 13 58 45

From this comparative statement, it appears, by the births, that the population of the parish has been upon the decrease during the last 10 years, which is actually the case. In the first period, the coal in the estate of Crombie was wrought to a pretty considerable extent; but, when it began to fail, numbers of the workmen went to collieries in the neighbourhood; and at present, very few families of them remain in the parish. With regard to the deaths, (the mediums of which, in both periods, are nearly equal, and which, in the last, ought

to have diminished in proportion), it must be observed, that those people who have left the parish, still continue to bury their dead here, whose interments, without distinction, are inserted in the register, along with those of actual parishioners. It appears, from the register of the dead, which was begun in this parish in February 1696*, that in the year 1697, 114 died; and that of these, 76 died in the months of January, February, March and April. In the year 1699, 81 died; of whom 40 in the months of September, October, November and December. This vast mortality is accounted for by a dearth†, which prevailed, more or less, for 7 years in the end of last century; at which period also, great numbers of fish are said to have been thrown in upon the coast; of these the people eat immediately from the want of other food, and thereby became the prey of dysenteries, and other putrid disorders.—The great body of the people is composed of day labourers‡, mechanics, and sailors.

Proprietors and Rent.—There are 14 heritors in the parish, 4 great, and 10 small. The valued rent, as appears from an extract taken from the cess books of the county, amounts to 5,184l. Scotch. There are some lands, in the parish only *quoad sacra*, the valued rent of which is 889l. 3s. 4d. Scotch.

Church and Schools.—The value of the living, including a glebe of two acres and a half, amounts to between 80l. and 90l. Sterling.

* The medium of deaths might then be about 22.

† The meal is said on that occasion, to have been so high as 2s. per peck.

‡ Day labourers earn, in summer, 1s. per day; and, in winter, 9d. or 10d. Wrights and masons, 1s. 6d.; and the wages of plowmen are from 6l. to 8l. per annum. The wages of women, are, for turnip weeding, and hay making, 6d.; and shearing in harvest, 7d. and 8d., with their provisions.

Sterling. The patron is the Rev. Dr. John Erskine of Carnock, one of the ministers of Edinburgh.—There is a good parochial school here for the following branches of education: Latin, English, writing, arithmetic, navigation and book-keeping; besides a Sabbath evening school, which is supported by subscription, and is at present in a flourishing condition, and well attended.

Poor.—The number of persons at present on the poor's roll amounts to 50; 15 of these receive each from 3d. to 6d. per week; other 15 are allowed 4l. Scotch, to enable them to defray their house rents; and the remaining 20 are those, who, though in less indigent circumstances, stand in need of some assistance, and receive from time to time, according as the funds will allow. The funds, from whence these payments are made, arise, chiefly, from the weekly collections at the church doors, and the profits of the mortcloth, which amount, in all, to about 30l. Sterling yearly.

Shipping and Trade.—There are 13 vessels belonging to this place, viz. 1 ship, 3 brigs, and 9 sloops; whose burdens, put together, amount to upwards of 1000 tons, and give employment to about 70 seamen. The larger vessels are engaged in foreign trade. The sloops are coasters; but some of them occasionally go up the Baltic for wood and grain. We have 2 passage boats, the largest of which was built by the merchants of Dunfermline, principally for the purpose of transporting to Borrowstownness their manufactured diapers, which are brought here in carts, and carried to London by the Borrowstownness traders, and for bringing over the goods, which come for them by the same conveyance: And the other is chiefly employed in importing commodities for the consumption of the inhabitants. There are no manufactures in the parish;
but

but there is a considerable quantity of yarn spun for the manufacturers in Dunfermline, which brings into circulation here, to the amount of between 400l. and 500l. Sterling yearly.

Antiquities.—There are no natural curiosities in the parish, and its antiquities are but few. In a pretty extensive plain field, N. E. of the village of Torryburn, there is a flat stone, raised upon one end, of a shape nearly oblong, and measuring, from the surface to the top, about 8 feet, and about 4½ in breadth. Round the edge of it there is a deep circle, and on each of the sides a number of ridges, all of which wear the appearance of art and antiquity. At about 18 or 20 paces from this stone, there is a number of smaller ones, which, from their present position, seem to have formed part of a circle. This place is thought to have been the scene of a battle in some former period, and these stones to mark the graves of some of the chiefs, who had fallen in the engagement. And the supposition is rendered highly probable by the name which it still bears, *Tollzie*, which is evidently a corruption of the Scotch word *Tulzie*, which signifies a *fight*.

In the church-yard, there is part of an epitaph, which, from its singularity, and at the same time beautiful simplicity, appears well worth preservation. When the present incumbent entered to his benefice, it was entire upon the grave stone; but a gentleman, whose property the burying ground now is, perhaps from inattention, caused part of it to be erased, in order to make room for inserting the deaths of some of his relations. The following is the epitaph entire, as originally composed.

EPITAPH.

" At *anchor* now, in Death's dark *Road*,
" Rides honest Captain HILL,
" Who serv'd his king, and fear'd his God,
" With upright heart and will.

" In social life sincere and just,
" To vice of no kind given;
" So that his better part, we trust,
" Hath made the PORT of HEAVEN."

NUMBER

NUMBER XXVI.

PARISH OF FERRY-PORT-ON-CRAIG.

*(County and Synod of Fife.—Presbytery of St. Andrew's.)**By the Rev. ROBERT DALGLEISH of Scotscraig, D. D.
Minister of the said Parish.**Erection and Name.*

THIS parish was erected by an act of the 18th parliament of King James VI. in the year 1606. There is a tradition, that the village Ferry-Port-on-Craig belonged to the neighbouring parish of Leuchars, previous to that period, and had a chapel of ease, though no record can be found old enough to authenticate this fact. So strongly is the tradition thereof impressed on the minds of the people, that the supposed foundation of this chapel, ever since that distant period, has to this day remained unplowed, in the midst of a well cultivated field, named *the Chapel*.—The parish has its name from its local situation. There is a public passage over the Tay, from the village of Ferry-Port-on-Craig on the south, to Broughty Castle, which stands opposite, on the north bank of the river. This passage was named *Ferry-Port-on-Craig*, to distinguish it from the many other ferries in this part of Scotland. There being at that time no pier, or quay, on either
side

side of the river, where the passage boats might ship passengers or horses, it was the custom to boat horses at the point of a *craig*, or rock, whence the name *Ferry-Port-on-Craig*.

Ferry.—Before the bridge was built over the Tay at Perth, this passage was much frequented by persons of all ranks; but since that period, fewer people travel this way, and the road has become almost deserted. The drovers, however, still frequently pass here, having good conveniency for their cattle on both sides of the river. It is, indeed, esteemed one of the safest passages over the Tay, there being no instance (in the memory of the oldest man alive), of a passage boat being cast away crossing from the village of *Ferry-Port-on-Craig* to *Bruchty Castle*; though the river at this passage is reckoned two miles broad. The present freight for a man is 2d.; and for a horse 4d., when they go in the birth boat*. It was often found so inconvenient and dangerous to boat horses from a tagged *craig*, that the Legislature interposed their authority, ordaining the ferriers to make *Briggs* to their boats; (by which is meant a kind of timber platform, to be laid from the most proper part of the *craig*, to the gunwale of the boat), for shipping horses with more ease and safety. These *briggs* were always used at this passage, till some time ago, that piers were built for the convenience of passengers, and security of horses; but the *briggs* are still kept, and used occasionally at times, when high winds and tides oblige

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* There is an act of the 7th parliament of King James III. held at Edinburgh, May 9th 1474, regulating other passages, and extended to this in these words: "And at the *Port-in-Craigs*, ane penny for the man, and the horse ane penny: And quhat ferriers that dois in the contrarie, sall pay fourty shillings to the King, and his person prisoned at the will of the King: And that the ferriers make *briggs* to their boates, after the forme of the acts maid of before, under the paine contained in the samin."

the boatmen to ship horses at a rock or craig. This passage is 4 miles farther eastward, and nearer the ocean and mouth of the river, than the passage at Dundee. It is private property, being part of the estate of Scotscraig.

Situation, Surface, Village, &c.—This parish is situated on the south side of the river Tay, and stretches along the south bank of the river, from its mouth, where it empties itself into the German ocean, 5 statute miles from E. to W. It is irregular as to its breadth from N. to S., being in some places one mile, and at other places not above half a mile broad. On the E. the surface is flat and low. Though there are no remarkable mountains, yet towards the W. it is high and rocky, where the hills have not soil enough for cultivation. They are mostly covered with whins and short grass, the bare rocks appearing but in few places. Where the parish is bounded by the German ocean, the shore is sandy; but where it is bounded by the river, it varies, being in some places sandy, in others covered with sea gravel. At the village it is a rocky shore. The parish contains the house of Scotscraig, (where the family resides), four farms, with their cottaries, and the village of Ferry-Port-on-Craig, from whence the parish has its name. The greatest number of the parishioners live in the Ferry, where the church and manse are both situated, and are very central for the parishioners.

Extent, Soil, and Produce.—From a map of the parish, it appears there are in it 2,026 Scotch acres. The soil is of various kinds, consisting of clay, strong and light loam, sand, and links. The crops that are best adapted for the clay, to produce the greatest profit, are, wheat, beans, barley, grass, and oats. Flax is sown to very good advantage; but, on the whole, it is rather an uncertain crop; it likewise produces

duces potatoes, but the quality is generally not so good as in light soils. The strong loam stands on a whin rock; and, where there is sufficiency of soil, it produces wheat, oats, beans, barley, grass and potatoes, in great perfection. Flax is sometimes sown on this soil; but seldom proves a good crop. The light loam is founded on sand, and produces barley, grass, oats, potatoes, turnips and flax. This soil produces the two last articles, in a moist season, very abundantly; but when long tracts of dry weather take place, they prove but poor crops. The sand produces barley, grass, oats, rye, turnips and flax; all which crops, in a favourable season, turn out far beyond what a stranger to the nature of the soil could imagine. The flax in particular, turns out to be a very lucrative crop. The links produce a kind of pasture for cattle and sheep, and afford accommodation for the grey rabbits, which, within these few years, have turned out very valuable to the possessors, on account of the extraordinary demand for their skins, which sold at 8s. Sterling per dozen last year.

Cultivation, Cattle, Exports and Imports, &c.—All the tenants now use only ploughs drawn by two horses; one man both holds the plough, and drives the horses with a pair of long reins. In driving their corn and dung, they use carts drawn by two horses. The farmers in the country employ 17 ploughs. Cultivating the acres occupied by the feuars in the Ferry, gives sufficient employment to 3 more, which makes the number of ploughs used in the whole parish amount to 20.—There are 61 working horses. The greatness of their number is owing to the villagers in the Ferry, keeping more horses than would be sufficient for the cultivation of the land they possess, were they always employed in agriculture; but they frequently use them in driving coals for hire, and such like work.—Only 1 farmer keeps a flock; they are of the small

white faced breed, and weigh at an average 22 pounds the whole carcase. The same breed has been kept in that farm for many years past, without any change. The farmers have in all about 240 sheep; they produce excellent wool, which is sold to the people in the neighbourhood at about 15s. Sterling the stone weight. The parish exports barley, and imports oat-meal*.

Climate and Diseases.—The air is reckoned very wholesome. The people are generally healthy. Epidemical distempers seldom rage here; the best evidence of the salubrity of the air is, that during the incumbency of the present minister, there have always been in the village some old people of 80 years and upwards. There are several of that age alive just now (October 5th 1792). About 20 years ago, the ague was so frequent, that few people escaped it, in a greater or less degree at some period of life; but for some years past, it has scarcely made its appearance. Rheumatisms and nervous disorders are now most prevalent.

Fisheries.—There are considerable salmon fishings in the river Tay, opposite to this parish. The salmon is esteemed of a good quality, being taken so near the ocean. They are sold to the Perth merchants, who send them to the London market. These fishings afford summer employment for several hands, and often yield them great returns for their labour, and the expence laid out in preparing their nets and other apparatus

* In ordinary seasons, the wheat seed continues from the middle of September to the end of October; the rye is sown from about the 15th to the 25th of November; oats, pease, and beans, from the 12th March to the end of April; potatoes are planted from the 15th to the end of April; barley is sown during the month of May; turnips during the month of June. The harvest is rather early; but in wet seasons, the harvest is both late, and very uncertain.

paratus for the fishing; but they are not equally productive every season. They do not begin to fish for salmon, in this part of the river, till about the end of April; and they give over the 16th of August. There is only one boat's crew engaged in the white fishery. The fishing ground for white fish is mostly without the river. The fishermen carry their fish to Dundee; so that the price of the small quantity sold here, is regulated by the market there; but this fishing has failed much for some years past. In the summer months, great numbers of small flounders are caught in this part of the river, as any person is permitted to use hand lines in that fishing. It is very useful to the poor people, who have an opportunity of supplying their families with these fish, at no expence. On the south side of this part of the Tay, there is a *scalp* of a small kind of mussels, esteemed good bait for the white fish; they are purchased for that purpose by the fishermen in the neighbourhood. In the sands there is also plenty of sea worms, which the fishermen call *Lugg*, and prefer them even to mussels for bait in the summer season; but these worms sink so deep in the sand in winter, that they cannot be got. These small mussels are, therefore, the only bait used for the white fishing, in winter.

Migratory Birds.—Several kinds of sea fowls frequent the shore during winter. Every year, about the month of April, they leave the coast, to go and hatch their young. They return again in the month of August, and continue in this country till April, when they take their annual flight. They are immediately succeeded by other sea fowls, that make their appearance here in the spring, remain during the summer months, and hatch about the shore. In the month of August or September, they remove from this to their winter habitations. Next season, at the usual time, they pay their annual visit

visit to this country. Thus they follow each other in constant succession every year.

Population.—It appears from the parish roll taken up this year, compared with a list made out in the year 1762, that the village has had an increase of 84 families, and the country of 4, within these 30 years, in all 88 families; that the former has increased 194 examinable persons, and the latter 11; and that the whole parish has increased to the number of 205 persons, above 7 years of age, within that period. The following table exhibits the present state of the parish, and the total increase, within these 40 years.

| | In the village. | In the country. | Total. |
|---|-----------------|---------------------------------|--------|
| Number of families, - | 208 | 32 | 240 |
| Persons above 7 years of age, - | 569 | 131 | 700 |
| below - | 135 | 40 | 175 |
| Total, - | 704 | 171 | 875 |
| The return to Dr. Webster in 1755, was | - | - | 621 |
| | | Increase, | 254 |
| Number of males above 7 years of age, - | - | - | 310 |
| female above ditto, - | - | - | 390 |
| | | Majority of females, | 80 |
| Number of sailors* about - | 35 | Number of ale sellers, who are | |
| weavers, 67 - 9 - | 76 | brewers, - | 3 |
| wrights, - - - | 9 | male labouring servants | |
| tailors, - - - | 9 | about - - - | 33 |
| smiths, - - - | 3 | Annual average of births within | |
| shoemakers, - - - | 5 | the last 9 years, - | 274 |
| bakers, - - - | 3 | ditto, marriages, - | 64 |
| ale sellers in the vil- | | ditto, deaths, nearly - | 18 |
| lage, - - - | 6 | | |

The :

* These are mostly employed in the Dundee merchantmen.

The increase in population, which is chiefly in the village, is owing partly to the neighbouring farmers not inclining to keep such large cottaries as formerly : This has obliged several families to come into the Ferry, where they hire small houses, and support themselves by their industry, either as tradesmen or day labourers. The great increase of manufactures, has also encouraged many young men to follow that line of life, who continue to reside as tradesmen within the town.

Abstract of Baptisms, Marriages, and Deaths, as entered in the Parish Register, for the last nine years.

| Years. | Baptisms. | Marriages. | Deaths. |
|--------|-----------|------------|---------|
| 1783 | 18 | 7 | 21 |
| 1784 | 24 | 6 | 18 |
| 1785 | 25 | 6 | 10 |
| 1786 | 31 | 8 | 26 |
| 1787 | 26 | 7 | 18 |
| 1788 | 38 | 5 | 13 |
| 1789 | 28 | 6 | 15 |
| 1790 | 29 | 5 | 12 |
| 1791 | 27 | 7 | 28 |
| In all | 246 | 57 | 161 |

Manufactures.—The principal manufacture, is weaving coarse brown linens, of different fabrics. The weavers are chiefly employed by the merchants of Dundee in manufacturing these linens. They sometimes weave other cloth for country use. The women's work is generally spinning the yarn for these brown linens. So great is the present demand for such linens, that both the weavers and spinners have more work offered them, than they are able to undertake ; and the wages

wages are considerably higher than formerly*.—The other artists work principally for the use of the people in the parish and neighbourhood; and sometimes manufacture articles for sale.

Church and School.—The King is patron. The present incumbent is the 8th minister since the Revolution, and has been 32 years in the parish.—The value of the living varies according to the prices of grain. It consists of 39 bolls & firlots of bear, 40 bolls of oats by the decret, but by use and wont of payment, 4 bolls & 1 firlot of these 40 bolls of oats, are paid in oat-meal: 10 bolls of pease; and in money the sum of 17l. 11s. 8d. Sterling; 10s. of that sum is paid by the proprietor of Leuchars for a salmon fishing. The proprietor of Scotscraig pays the whole stipend, except the 10s. just mentioned, and holds up the kirk, manse and school. Out of the teinds of this parish, 5 bolls bear, 7 bolls 3 firlots of white

* A common day-labourer, from Candlemas to Martinmas, will, at an average, earn from 12d. to 14d. a-day; an ordinary tradesman, who works on day's wages, from 15d. to 18d.; but masons have higher wages than ordinary tradesmen, owing to the great increase of manufactures, which have excited such an uncommon spirit for building, that they get from 20d. to 22d. a-day in summer; but from Martinmas to Candlemas, masons have only about 14d., and the labourers about 10d. a-day. During the whole year, they all furnish themselves with provisions out of their wages. The greatness of the wages depends much on the demand at the time. Tailors get 6d. a-day, and their meat, throughout the year. It is customary for both tradesmen and spinsters, to hire themselves to the neighbouring farmers, at fixed wages, for the whole harvest, without restriction to any number of days. At an average, the farmer will hire a tradesman, for the whole harvest, at 1l. 3s. Sterling, and a woman at 17s. 6d. Both sexes have their victuals from the farmer, besides their wages. When a man is occasionally hired per day, he receives 1s., and a woman 10d., besides their maintenance. The hire of labourers and servants wages are still on the increase.

white oats are paid yearly to the minister of Dull, in Athol ; and 1s. 8d. Sterling of vicarage to the minister of Leuchars. The glebe consists of 4 acres of arable land, let at present for 2 bolls 2 firlots of barley each acre ; the foggage, being all inclosed, is let for 4l. 7s. Sterling, for which the minister pays 10s. Sterling yearly to the tenant of the Mains of Scotscraig ; the ground taken off that farm for foggage, being estimated in value to that amount above the legal allowance. The glebe adds to the value of the living 10 bolls of barley, and 3l. 17s. Sterling of money ; making the living, with the glebe, amount to 99 bolls 2 firlots of victual, and 21l. 8s. 8d. Sterling of money.—The church was built in the year 1607, the year after the erection of the parish, the date being cut in the kirk ; The family aisle, by Sir John Buchanan, then of Scotscraig, in the year 1644. Under it there is a large vault, where the several proprietors of the estate have been buried, ever since the manse was built, about the year 1727.—The salary of the parish school is 100 merks Scotch money, paid by the proprietor of Scotscraig. The schoolmaster is also session-clerk.

Poor.—The poor's fund arises from the interest of a small sum of money appropriated to them, the profits of the mortcloth, and the very liberal weekly collection made by the parishioners. The session has no act fixing any certain weekly pension on any of the poor ; but varies the sum given to them, enlarging or diminishing their allowance, according to the difference of their situation ; but they always give them such ample occasional supplies, as enable the poor, with their own industry, to subsist comfortably in their own houses ; none having been allowed to beg from door to door for many years past, either within or without the parish. The parish funds have supported the poor, without any assessment, these 50 years. The number of the poor varies as circumstances occur. The pre-

sent number, of those that receive aid from the public parish fund, is about 16. Upon setting forth, that, from extraordinary loss, accidental misfortune, or sudden and severe distress in their family, any are reduced to such a situation as to require a greater interim supply, than the ordinary session funds are able to afford to one family, then, by order of the session, an extraordinary collection is intimated from the pulpit, to be made for their benefit, either at the church doors, or from house to house within the parish, as circumstances may require. Whatever is collected is given to them, that they may have assistance suitable to their present urgent necessity. Upon a favourable change of circumstances, they again support themselves by their industry, without having recourse to sessional aid. When they are in such indigence as not to be able to educate their children, the session always pays the school fees, for teaching them at least to read the holy scriptures; as they judge it their duty to see the children of the poor well educated, and consider that the best bestowed charity, which procures for them the means of education.

Heritor and Rent.—There is but one heritor, the present minister, who is proprietor of the whole parish. The villagers in the Ferry are all his feuers, for their houses and small gardens: The farms are his property lands.—The valued rent of the parish is 2183l. Scotch money. The value of the rental cannot, with accuracy, be easily ascertained: a great part of it being paid in victual, the value must vary, according to the prices of grain, every year.

Scotsraig Mains.—The farm of the mains of Scotsraig was originally church land, belonging to the archbishopric of St. Andrew's. The Pope, by his bull, allowed the archbishop to feu out said farm at the sum of 132l. 18s. 8d.

Scotch, and 4 bolls of pease. The yearly value of the pease, with the said sum of money, is annually paid to the collector of the bishop's rents. It is handed down by tradition, that a Mr. Scott, a son of the family of Balwirie, in Fife, was the feuer; and, to distinguish it from other farms called *Craig*, he prefixed his own name to it; hence *Scotsraig*. This estate was formerly the property, and the house the country residence, of *Archbishop* JAMES SHARP, for many years before his death; and belonged to his son Sir William Sharp several years after the death of the bishop. His arms are still on the outer gate, dated 1667.

Antiquity.—The only antiquity in the parish is the remains of an old castle, in which there are several vaults quite entire. We are greatly at a loss to know by whom, or at what period it was built, as there is no record to determine, nor even any traditional account handed down concerning it; but it must have been after the invention of fire arms, embrasures being so placed, as to carry a line of fire round the fort. The top of one of the hills is surrounded with the foundation of an old wall. As, from the top of this hill, there is an extensive prospect along the banks of the Tay, and the country around, it is supposed to have been the place of fire signal, in the time of the Danish incursions into Scotland; but there is no record about it.

Fuel.—There being neither coals, peats, nor wood, found for fuel, the dependence of the parishioners for firing, is upon coals brought from a distance, either from the frith of Forth, or by sea, at a considerable expence. What is called the boll, which weighs 8 cwt., or 56 stone English, is sold here at present at 6s. the boll. Though we pay no duty for Scotch coals, they are considerably dearer this season, than ever they were remembered to have been, which bears hard upon the

people in the lower ranks of life. Some drive coals from the coal-works in this country, at the distance of 9 or 10 statute miles, which they sell at 7s. the cart load. Some of the cottagers, in the country parish, burn dried turf and whins; but they all use coal as the principal part of their fuel. The villagers in the Ferry use coal only, which they purchase at the above prices.

Character.—The people are peaceably disposed, and firmly attached to the present happy civil constitution of their country. They all adhere to the principles of the established church of Scotland; and regularly attend divine worship in the parish kirk, excepting one Unitarian, (who, however, frequently hears sermon with the other parishioners), and one Seceder; both of whom came lately into this parish from Dundee.

Miscellaneous Observations.—There are no lime-stone quarries; but lime is brought by sea from Sunderland. It is sold at the Ferry at 1s. 6d. Sterling the boll of wheat measure, or 2s. 4d. Sterling the barley measure. Some drive lime by land carriage, at the distance of 10 and 15 miles, which can be afforded at 3s. 1d. the boll, barley measure. The only stone, got in this ground, is a hard whin stone, which makes strong and lasting work when built with good lime.—There are two mills for grinding meal, to which the parishioners are thirled only for what meal they make, or what malt is brewed within the parish; but not for the whole crop of corn growing on the several farms.—As there is a constant weekly demand for all kinds of country vivres in Dundee, some persons make it their business to go through this part of the country, and gather them up for the Dundee market. The prices here are, therefore, always regulated by what they fetch there.—

there.—This Ferry is a custom-house creek, within the precincts of the custom-house at Dundee. As it is the lowest creek in the river, a King's boat, with 6 boatmen, under the command of a tide surveyor, is stationed here, to board all vessels coming up the river from a foreign port, for the security of the public revenue. It is also the residence, appointed for the excise officer of the *St. Andrew's second ride*, the whole parish being in that division.

NUMBER

NUMBER XXVII.

PARISH OF LOGIE.

(Presbytery of Cupar—Synod and County of Fife.)

By the Rev. Mr. ROBERT BOGIE.

Situation and Extent.

THE parish of Logie is situated about 3 miles from Cupar, (the principal town in the county of Fife, and the seat of the presbytery), and about an equal distance from the water side, or Ferry, to Dundee. It extends about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length from E. to W., and 1 in breadth from S. to N., though in some parts not quite so much. The general figure of the parish, may be seen in Ainslie's map of Fife.

Surface, Soil, Climate, &c.—The country is in general hilly, but very fertile. The climate is pretty dry and healthy, excepting near the small village of Logie, where there is a marsh, which makes the air damp, especially in winter.—There is a considerable mountain in the parish, called *Luckla Hill*, upon which, it is reported, that the kings of Scotland used to hunt, and on which account it is called *the King's Park*. But of this circumstance, there is no authentic record extant.—From the top of this hill, in a clear day, there is a very extensive

five prospect, of Fife, Angus, the Mearns, and other counties.

Cultivation, Produce, Cattle, Wool, &c.—The ground commonly produces excellent crops of every kind of grain. The farmers sow a considerable quantity of grass and turnips, and have very good returns. They mostly plow their ground with horses; and oxen are here very little used in husbandry. There are about 28 ploughs, with generally 2 horses to a plough, besides what the farmers bring up for their own use, or for sale. Most of them pay a good part of their rents by bringing up young cattle. There are two pretty considerable flocks of sheep in the parish. The mutton is small, but the wool they produce is of a tolerable quality, neither of the coarsest, nor the finest sort.

Population.—The inhabitants, it is said, are diminished in point of number, compared to what they were many years ago; and it is certain, that several cottages have been pulled down since the commencement of this century; but within these 40 years, there appears to be, upon the whole, very little variation. The population, at present, consists of 340 examinable persons; which, allowing the usual proportion for children under 8 years of age, will make the number of souls

| | | |
|--|---|-----|
| The return to Dr. Webster, in 1755, was only | - | 413 |
|--|---|-----|

| | | |
|--|---|----|
| Hence there appears to be an increase of | - | 12 |
|--|---|----|

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---|---|---|---|
| The average of annual births, is 10 | Smiths, | - | - | - | 4 |
| Ditto of marriages, - 2 | Tailors, | - | - | - | 2 |
| Ditto of burials, - 8 | Retailer of spirits, | - | - | - | 1 |
| In the different professions there | Weavers, | - | - | - | 6 |
| are, farmers, - - 9 | And, Shoemakers, | - | - | - | 3 |
| Peasants, or small proprietors, - 2 | | | | | |

together

together with some carpenters, masons, day labourers, and servants.

Proprietors and Rents.—Besides the three small heritors above mentioned, who reside in the parish, and cultivate their own ground, there are six greater proprietors, who do not reside, which is a considerable loss to the poor. The valued rent is 2916l. 6s. 8d. Scotch; the real rent is not exactly known. The rent of farms, in general, run from 20s. to 40s. per acre. Some however, have their land on more reasonable terms.

Church, &c.—The manse was built in 1736, and has since got several partial reparations; but it is still in a very indifferent state. The stipend amounts, on an average, to 80l. Sterling per annum. The glebe consists of 4 acres arable, and 2 acres of a den for pasturage. The King is patron*. There are a good many Seceders, who attend a Burgher meeting house, in the neighbouring parish of Kilmeny.

School and Poor.—A good school and school-house are now building, (1792); which, when completed, will be very commodious. The salary is only 4l. 18s. 3½d., with 50 merks from a mortification, left in 1690, by Sir James Ramsay, Bart. of Easter Logie.—The capital stock belonging to the poor amounts to 120l. Sterling. The collections at the church doors are but very inconsiderable. There are 3 stated pensioners on the poor's funds, who get 1s. per week, and are paid at that rate
by

* In 1683, Sir David Balfour of Forret, one of the Senators of the College of Justice, bequeathed a large folio Bible, for the use of the minister on Sundays. It is still in tolerable condition, and was lately rebound.

by the treasurer every 5 weeks ; besides which, they get 5s. in winter to purchase coals. The annual collections, upon an average, including what is drawn on sacramental occasions, do not much exceed 5l. Sterling.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The people are in general healthy. There are not a few of 60, 70, and 80 years of age : One man died lately aged 87, and another 92.—The prices of all kinds of provisions are nearly doubled within these 20 years, or even less. Good beef, then, sold at 2d. and 2½d. per pound ; mutton at 3d. and a good fowl at 6d.—Coals are the only fuel used in this part of the country ; but they have become very high of late, which the poor feel very sensibly.

NUMBER XXVIII.

PARISH OF CADDER.

(County of Lanark—Presbytery of Glasgow—Synod of Glasgow and Ayr.)

By Mr. WILLIAM BARCLAY, Schoolmaster.

Name, Extent, and Situation.

CADDER, the name of this parish, is derived from a Gaelic word, and said to signify *the Back of the Oak Wood*, which corresponds exactly to the situation of *Cadder House*. It is often spelt *Calder*. The parish is 13 miles in length from E. to W., and between 3 and 4 miles in breadth*. It lies in the northern extremity of the county of Lanark. The 3 counties, Lanark, Dumbarton, and Stirling, all meet at the north point of this parish. The nearest point of it is 3 miles from the city of Glasgow, within half a mile of the town of Kirkintilloch, and 3 miles from Kilsyth and Cumbernauld. Gartinqueen Hill, in this parish, is said to be at an equal distance from Hamilton, Falkirk, and Stirling.

River

* There was a map of Cadder drawn in the year 1743, from a survey made by David Dowie, land-surveyor in Edinburgh, but it is in few hands.

River and Canal.—The river Kelvin, which rises east of Kilsyth, runs 6 miles along the northern boundary of the parish; but its course may be 10 or 12 miles, through fine fertile haugh grounds. It falls into the river Clyde two miles below Glasgow. The Kelvin used to overflow its banks in time of rain, and do considerable damage, especially in seed time and harvest; but the proprietors on the north side, to whom it did most damage, have of late confined it, by a great earthen mound, for the most part along its course.—It might, however, have been a much more effectual remedy, had they straightened, widened, and secured the bed of the river; which would be a great saving of ground.—The Forth and Clyde Navigation, commonly called *the Great Canal*, runs through the parish for 5 miles, and has 4 draw bridges on it.

Lakes and Roads.—About 80 years ago, a lake, nearly in the middle of the parish, was drained by a mine, driven a full mile in length under a hill. The mine is in many places 90 feet below the surface, whereby 120 acres of fine arable ground is gained, which annually produces rich crops, without any kind of manure.—There is another lake, called *the Bishop's Loch*, a mile in length, and one fourth of a mile in breadth, which is at present occupied as a reservoir, by the Great Canal Company.—The post road, from Edinburgh to Glasgow, passes 4 miles through this parish, and crosses the Great Canal about a mile east of Cadder kirk. There is also a new turnpike road made for 4 miles, in the east end of this parish, from Glasgow by Cumbernauld towards Falkirk, said to be considerably shorter than the road by Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch, and without a pull.—In 1772, when the heritors met to assess the parish for repairing the bye roads, they found it to contain 123 ploughgates of land. They assessed each of these ploughgates in 10s. Sterling, and 1s. 6d. for every cottager,

3 O 2

yearly.

yearly. In 1791, finding the above assessment insufficient for making the extent of road necessary, they raised it to 18s. Sterling per annum, and 2s. to every cottager, agreeable to an act of parliament for repairing roads in the county of Lanark.

Minerals.—There are a number of freestone quarries in the parish. The stones are very fit for building, and take a fine polish. There are also vast quantities of whin rocks, very proper materials for roads. We have an inexhaustible rock of limestone, which has of late been wrought to a considerable extent, both at Grankirk and Robroystone.—No coal, fit for working, has yet been discovered, though it is the opinion of miners, and people of skill, that the seams of coal, which have been wrought to so great advantage, in New Monkland on the E. and New Kirkpatrick on the W. extend through this parish. It is to be hoped, that some public spirited gentleman will search for, and find this hidden treasure.

Rent, Soil, Cultivation, Produce, &c.—The valuation of the whole parish, is 6270l. Scotch ; and the present yearly rent, may be about 6000l. Sterling.—There is no mountain in this parish. The whole face of the district is generally level. Yet we have several different soils ; such as, light sandy till, deep earth, and plenty of moss for fuel.—Improvement of land has greatly increased of late, and is still going on very rapidly, both by the plough and by manure. Excellent crops of oats, barley, clover, and rye grass, potatoes and flax, are produced. Oats have sold, before reaping, at 8l. 2s 6d. per acre, and yielded 16 bolls each acre. Potatoes are much cultivated here, and served up at every table. They are a substitute for bread, among the lower class of people, for at least 10 months in the year ; and, with very little attention, they make the old crop last, till it is succeeded by the new : 100 bolls have been raised

raised from 1 acre.—But flax is the most advantageous crop here: 200 acres are sown annually; and this year (1792), one farmer has sown 30 acres with flax seed: 32 stones of good scutched flax have been raised from 1 acre, and sold at a guinea the stone; a price perhaps equal to the value of the land on which it grew. Riga flax seed, and the finest kinds of Dutch seed are mostly sown here; though some good crops of flax have been raised from Boston flax seed. On rich moist soil, the finest flax is raised from American seed. Fine Dutch, and large plump America flax seed are reckoned to agree best with this climate. The quantities, commonly sown on 1 acre, are, 9½ pecks Dutch, 8½ Riga, and 8 America flax seed; this last being much smaller than the others.—The improvements in agriculture, in this neighbourhood, are much owing to the Great Canal*. Before it was erected, neither spade nor barrow was used to any purpose. Now, the wheel-barrow, plank, and spade, are found at every farmer's door; and, by the proper use of these utensils, much work is expeditiously performed.

Ecclesiastical State.—The whole of this parish, excepting the barony of Cadder, and the Midtown of Bedlay, formerly belonged to the subdeanry of Glasgow. The Bishop's Land was called the *Baldermonoch Ward* (or *Monk's Town*), and comprehends ten townships; each of which contains 8 ploughgates of land. The mill of Bedlay is still the joint property of these 10 townships. From this ecclesiastical tenure, are derived the names of several places in the parish; such as, the *Bishop's Bridge*, the *Bishop's Moss*, and the *Bishop's Loch*.—After the

* The only objection to the Great Canal, is, that it has been fatal to so many. No fewer than seven, within the bounds of this parish, have been drowned in it since it was opened.

the Reformation, the temporalities of the subdeanry of Glasgow, which consisted of the parishes of Cadder and Monkland, (the last of which was afterwards split into two parishes, called *Old* and *New Monkland*), together with the patronage of the churches, came into the possession of the noble families of Hamilton and Kilmarnock, and were by them transferred to the College of Glasgow, for a considerable sum of money, about the year 1656.—The parish of Cadder, as well as that of Monkland, availing itself of the act of Parliament 1690, by paying 600 merks Scotch, as directed in the act, to the College of Glasgow, obtained a renunciation of the right of patronage by that learned body; in consequence of which, the heritors and elders of the parish became the electors of the minister. It is a pity, however, that the act 1690 has not defined precisely *what constitutes an heritor*; for this defect has been attended with great inconveniences to the parish of Cadder. When the church of Cadder was formerly vacant, about the year 1745, there were keen disputes as to the title of several persons claiming a right to vote under the character of heritors; in consequence of which, the kirk was vacant for near two years. And though the late worthy clergyman, who succeeded on the occasion, died in June 1790, the church still continues vacant, owing to a warm *dispute*, with respect to the title of a number, who voted at a late election of a minister, and which is at present under litigation before the Court of Session. It ought however to be mentioned, that the College of Glasgow, who are still titulars of the tiends, upon application being made to them, generously consented, much to their honour, as well as to the benefit of this parish, to allow part of the vacant stipend to be laid out, in paying the expence of a preacher, to officiate at Cadder church during the vacancy, under the direction of the presbytery of Glasgow.—The living is 8 chalders, paid in money by the College of Glasgow, according to the

the flars of the commissariat of Hamilton and Campsie, half a chaldar for communion elements, with a manse, and about 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres for a glebe, beside grafs for a horse and 2 cows on the common.—The manse was built in 1656, and enlarged and slated in 1714, at the joint expence of the College of Glasgow, and the former and then present minister. It is now in a ruinous condition. The church was rebuilt in 1750, but not finished compleatly till 1784, and is now in good condition.

Poor.—The number on the poor's roll is about 15 annually; mostly aged and infirm women, who have from 6d. to 1s. Sterling weekly. Occasional assistance is given likewise to poor families, of from 5s. to 10s. Sterling at a time. No public charity is given to any that go about begging, except now and then a pair of shoes.—The poor's funds arise from the collections at the church doors, 2s. 6d. for every marriage, and the interest of about 300l. Sterling, mortified to the kirk session. These funds have continued, without much increase or diminution, for near 50 years past.

Schools.—There are 4 public schools in this parish, 3 of which have small salaries annexed to them. (1.) The parish schoolmaster has a salary of 100 merks Scotch, paid by the heritors, and 1l. 3s. 4d. Sterling, as session-clerk and precentor; with 1s. 8d. for each marriage, and 9d. for each baptism; besides the ordinary school wages, of 1s. 6d. per quarter. (2.) In 1744, Mr. Patrick Baird, merchant, left a memorial worthy of record, bequeathing 325l. Sterling for erecting a school at Auchenloch, the place of his nativity. He devoted 15l. Sterling of the interest to be paid annually to the schoolmaster; and 1l. 5s. to a young man, for preaching a sermon at Auchenloch on Christmas (which was the donor's birth day), and to buy books and *buns* (rolls) for the scholars. To this donation,

tion, John Baird, late of Auchenloch, added a piece of ground for a house and garden. All the heritors, possessed of a plough of land in the parish, are patrons of this school. (3.) In 1745, Mr. James Warden, late minister of this parish, bequeathed 1000 merks Scotch to the session; the interest of which is allotted to the support of a school at Auchensairn, the place of his nativity. In 1760, the worthy and humane Dr. William Leechman, late principal of the University of Glasgow, disposed to the session of Cadder, about half an acre of ground, for a house and garden for the benefit of this school, of which the minister and elders are patrons. (4.) The fourth school-house is at Chrystone, in the east end of the parish, where a chapel of ease was built by subscription 11 years ago; but there is no salary annexed to it, nor any perquisite for the master, excepting the school wages, 1s. 6d. per quarter.

At each of these 4 schools, there may be, at an average, 30 scholars during the winter half year, and 20 through the summer quarter. When there is any vacancy in the harvest, the *schoolmaster's year* is only reckoned *three quarters!!!*—Thus 100 scholars, for three quarters, at 1s. 6d. per quarter, pay only 21l. 10s. Sterling per annum, to all the 4 schoolmasters in the parish, for education, which is but 5l. 12s. 6d. Sterling to each of them for 9 months attendance. This is surely too little to support, with any decency, a class of men confessedly useful, in this expensive and wealthy age*. To better the condition of the people of this country, more

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encou-

* About 50 years ago, it was the custom here, to allow the parish schoolmaster to go about with the scholars, and lodge free with their parents, as he had no house of his own to teach or lodge in, but a barn in summer, and a cottage in winter. Of late, however, the gentlemen in this parish have built a school-house, in a corner of the church yard, where the present schoolmaster lives, who has served in that office for 39 years. One of his predecessors (William Stirling), officiated here 41 years. Both are natives of Cadder parish.

encouragement should be given to teachers, to enable them to pay proper attention, to improve the morals of youth under their care. The want of this, must more or less affect the education of the rising generation. When an attempt was made, some time ago, to have the condition of the schoolmasters of this country somewhat bettered, the argument, by which some lords and gentlemen opposed it, was, that "they wished parish schools were suppressed altogether, because their servants were *corrupted*, by being taught to *read and write* : That they would be more *obedient and dutiful*, were they more *ignorant*, and had no education†."—This, however, is not the opinion of any gentleman in this parish. They well know, that some of the first and most respectable characters, in the nation, have been trained up at country schools.

Antiquities.—The Roman Wall, or *Grabam's Dike*, is almost the only antiquity we have in this parish. It runs 4 miles in it, and may still be traced through Cadder Wood. One of the watch towers, on the south side of the wall, about a gun-shot from Cadder kirk, is still very visible.—At Rob-roystone, in this parish, on the 11th September 1303, Sir WILLIAM WALLACE was betrayed and apprehended, by Sir John Montecath, a favourite of King Edward I. of England, by whom he was most unjustly and ignominiously put to

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3 P

death

† This illiberal idea is refuted by fact. That *ignorance* cannot be the mother of *morality*, more than of *devotion*, is proved by experience. The good behaviour of the lower ranks in Scotland, in general, contrasted with the immoralities, crimes, and annual executions, of many of the same class, in the sister kingdom, can be ascribed to nothing so much as to the superior advantages, the former enjoy, of early education, and proper instruction, in the first principles of moral and religious duty. Deprive them of these, and they will soon become as great savages, as the most ignorant rabble of *London, Paris, or Birmingham*.

death at London. After he was overpowered, and before his hands were bound, it is said, he threw his sword into Robroy-stone loch. An oaken *couple*, or joist, which made part of the barn, in which the Scotch hero was taken, is still to be seen in this neighbourhood, and may yet last for ages.

The following STATISTICAL TABLE, which was taken very accurately from house to house, by the Parish Schoolmaster (who travelled 300 miles through the parish, collecting these materials, in May 1792), shews

The POPULATION, &c. of the Parish of CADDER.

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Number of inhabited houses, 390 | Population as returned to Dr. |
| ———— empty do. - - 12 | Webster in 1755, - - 2396 |
| ———— females, - - 925 | Number of souls, in 1792, - 1767 |
| ———— males, - - 842 | Decrease, - 629 |
| Majority of females, - 83 | |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Persons born in the parish, - 842 | Wages of inferior do. L. 12 0 0 |
| ———— under 6 years of age, 222 | ———— best maid ser- |
| ———— above 70 years, - 50 | vants, - 6 0 0 |
| Average of each family, - 4½ | ———— inferior do. 4 0 0 |
| Annual average of births for | ———— manufacturers |
| 20 years past, - - 43 | per day, 0 2 3½ |
| Ditto of marriages for that | ———— day labourers, |
| time, - - - 15 | per day, - 0 1 6 |
| Average produce of each, - 3 | Number of horses, - 377 |
| Wages of the best plowman by | ———— cows, - 1285 |
| the year, L. 16 0 0 | ———— sheep, - 137 |

Number

*** N. B. These are their wages besides their victuals.

† When on piece-work, they make more; some from 30s. to 50s. Sterling.

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----|-------------------------------|---|
| Number of swine, - | 41 | Number of burying places, be- | |
| — dogs, - | 202 | sides Cadder church- | |
| — carts, - | 284 | yard, - | 6 |
| — ploughs, - | 138 | — corn mills, - | 4 |
| — weavers looms, 158 | | — lint do. - | 3 |
| — watches, - | 107 | — dove cotes ¶, - | 6 |
| — clocks, - | 110 | — families, all born in | |
| — slated houses ‡, - | 18 | the parish, - | 6 |
| — public do. §, - | 15 | | |

Miscellaneous Observations.—From the preceding table it appears, that not one half of the inhabitants have been born in the parish :—That nearly one eighth of them are under six years of age :—That there is a dog, a clock, or a watch, for every house in the parish :—That there is a cart, or a plough, for every house :—And that there is nearly one horse, and more than three cows, for every house in it. The cows are very productive. The produce of one cow has brought the owner 10l. Sterling in the year.—There is only 1 four wheeled carriage in the parish.—There is a threshing machine, which, with 4 men and 3 horses, will thresh from 8 to 10 bolls each hour.—The oldest man in the parish is 94 years of age. There are 2 men still alive, both of the name of *William Gray*, who have been each married to their present wives 58 years.—There was a working mason in this parish, whose wife brought him 18 children ; and a noble lady has born 23 children to one husband.—The people here are not fond of a seafaring life, and but few enlist into the army ; though, of late, 11

3 P 2

handsome

‡ One half of these have been lately built.

§ There were formerly only two.

¶ The doves in each of these are supposed to destroy 20 bolls of grain annually, which is 120 bolls left to the farmers, on an average, per annum.

handsome young fellows have joined the Train. One of them is 6 feet 3 inches high.—The inhabitants here shewed great aversion to answer any question, tending to discover the real state of their stock, cattle, or population. An apprehension of *new taxes, new wars*, and of raising *new armies*, seemed to be the chief cause of their unwillingness to communicate information on these subjects.

NUMBER

NUMBER XXIX.

PARISH OF MUTHIL.

(County of Perth—Presbytery of Auchterarder—Synod of Perth and Stirling.)

By the Rev. Mr. JOHN SCOTT, Minister.

Name, Situation, and Extent.

MUTHIL is situated on the borders of the Highlands; and as the names of almost all the places around are Gaelic, and generally descriptive of their local situation, it probably takes its name from an Erse word, of somewhat a similar sound, which signifies *the north side of the hill*.—The parish is of an irregular shape, but one of the most populous of the whole country; and is of great extent, being from 8 to 10 miles in length, and from 6 to 9 in breadth.—The *village*, where the *kirk* stands, which gives its name to the parish, is upon the great military road, leading to Inverness by Tay Bridge. It is 4 miles south from Crief, 17 from Stirling, and nearly the same distance from Perth. Before the Reformation, it was the residence of the Dean of Dumblane, and in after times, the seat of a presbytery, which now meets at Auchterarder, being more in the center of the district.

Soil,

Soil and Surface.—In so large a parish, the surface, as may naturally be supposed, is made up of flat and rising grounds, of hills and valleys; so that the soil in one place, must needs differ widely from that in another. In the S. W. part of the parish, there are many thousand acres, at present thought unfit for cultivation, being completely covered over with heath, or with deep moss. For many miles, the haughs on the Earn, and also on the Water of Allan, are, for the most part, a light loam, on a gravelly or sandy bottom, which, with lime or marle, produces excellent crops. The higher grounds lie upon beds of till, naturally wet, but, when drained, they are, by the above mentioned manures, rendered no less productive.

Cultivation.—Since the year 1770, large *marle pits* have been discovered in both sides of the parish, and much lime has been used in agriculture. Almost every farmer lays down a field annually with grass seeds, and finds his account in it. Less ground is now plowed up, more cattle and horses are reared, and four times the quantity of grain is produced. The *tenants* are therefore in a thriving condition, and the peasantry, in general, are industrious, sober, and contented in their stations.—Not only has much arable land been meliorated, but what is still more worthy of notice, between 1000 and 1200 acres (in their former state good for little), have, within these last 30 years, been inclosed and planted with trees of various kinds, that now serve to adorn, and, ere long, will enrich the country; by affording useful timber, besides fuel, at an easy rate, to thousands, who derive but little advantage from their mosses, and live at a great distance from coal pits.

Climate and Diseases.—As the parish abounds in wood, and wood and water, the air is in general moist, and many situations

tions are damp ; yet, upon the whole, the people are tolerably healthy, and live to a good old age. Many, that are between 60 and 70, work as day labourers ; numbers of others, between 70 and 80 years of age, are going about their ordinary business. A man died lately, some years above 90. The most common diseases are fevers, rheumatisms, and consumptions. At times, the measles and hooping cough carry off many infants. But the small pox (formerly so fatal to children), by the improved mode of treatment, destroys very few. Inoculation is now very common among all ranks ; and the prejudices of the vulgar, against this most salutary operation, are at an end. The Commissioners on the Annexed Estates paid a surgeon, for inoculating the children of the tenants and of the poor. Some hundreds were inoculated at a time, and every one of them recovered. It must give pleasure to add, that the present proprietor of the Perth estate continues to employ a surgeon, for the same benevolent purpose ; and also to attend the parents that are poor, when they stand in need of medical assistance. An example well worthy of imitation !

Birds and Quadrupeds.—There are in the parish, plenty of partridges, moorfowl and snipes ; also a few heath cocks, or black cocks ; and, at particular seasons of the year, vast numbers of plovers, woodcocks, wild ducks, wild geese and teals. —There are abundance of hares, rabbits, foxes, badgers and polecats, bred in the parish. At this time, there are no wild deer ; but as the horns of both the elke and forest deer, of a very large size, have of late been found in marle pits, on both sides of the parish, and as the head and horns of the *urus*, (the *bos ferus* of Linnæus), or mountain bull, were lately dug up at the side of a small lake, near Drummond Castle, it
plainly

upon which a flax mill is placed, a little above the place where it falls into the Ern.—There are several county roads in the parish; but the most remarkable one, is the great military one, from Stirling, by Crief, to Inverness, which runs the whole breadth of the parish for 8 or 9 miles, crossing the Allan, the Knaick, the Machany, and the Ern, over each of which rivers there is a stone bridge.

Population.—The marriages have, for 20 years past, been, on an average, from 30 to 36. The exact number of baptisms cannot so easily be ascertained. This is chiefly owing to the negligence of those who are not of our communion, or are connected with a chapel of ease in a distant part, and who seldom think of sending their children's names to be put on the parish register. There are however from 80 to 90 baptisms recorded annually. No register of burials having been kept, it is difficult to say, in what proportion births and burials stand to each other: But it is a certain fact, that the population has increased very considerably since the year 1770; for at that period the population stood as follows:

| | |
|---|------|
| Examinable persons of the Established Church, | 1850 |
| Children under 7 years of age, | 390 |
| Dissenters, young and old, about | 400 |
| In all, | 2640 |

Whereas, by a list lately taken, it appears, that there are at present in the parish,

| | |
|---|------|
| Examinable persons of the Church of Scotland, | 2160 |
| Children under 7 years of age, | 430 |
| Old and young of the Church of England, | 156 |
| Presbyterian Dissenters, | 160 |
| Roman Catholics, | 42 |
| Total, | 2948 |
| Increase within these last 22 years, | 308 |

Previous to the year 1770, however, the number had decreased; for the return to Dr. Webster, about 15 years before, was,

| | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---------|------|
| Protestants of all persuasions and ages, | - | - | - | - | 2245 |
| Papists, | - | - | - | - | 59 |
| | | | | In all, | 2902 |
| The increase upon the whole, therefore, within these last 37 years, is | | | | | |
| only | - | - | - | - | 46 |

The late rapid increase has been partly owing to the division and subdivision of farms, (which was frequently the case, while the Perth estate was in the hands of the commissioners); and partly to the enlargement of the village of Muthil.

Village.—In 1770, *Muthil* contained only about 50 or 60 families; but since that period, so many new feus have been given off and built, and so many small old houses have been taken down and rebuilt, upon a larger scale, that it now consists of about 140 houses and rooms, that contain separate families; so that the number of souls, on a moderate calculation, is upwards of 400; whereas formerly, the whole number did not exceed 200, at the utmost.

Professions.—There are about 50 mechanics of different kinds in this village; 6 shopkeepers, and 7 or 8 public houses; the rest chiefly consist of day labourers, and their families; widows, who have resorted hither for the education of their children; and old unmarried women, who have retired from service. There is no writer, surgeon, or physician in the parish. When legal or medical assistance is needed, application is made to those at Crief or Dumblane.

Rent and Heritors.—The valued rent of the parish is 7784l. 10s. Scotch; the real rent is upwards of 4000l. Sterling.—

ling.—There are 11 *heritors*, many of whom have but little property in the parish; Mr. Drummond of Perth being proprietor of more than two thirds of it. Three of them are constant residents: other three have houses, at which they reside occasionally; all of whom deserve great praise for what they have done, in planting, inclosing, and otherwise improving, the fields that lie around their seats.

Church, &c.—The *church* is an old fabric, that has stood for some centuries, and has often been repaired. It is said to have been built by Ochiltree Bishop of Dumblane, before the Reformation: The precise year is not known. It has however all the marks of antiquity: The roof is supported by a double row of pillars, with aisles on each side; and there is a square steeple at the west end; directly opposite to which, there is in the east end a quire, which is a narrow building, with a large Gothic window. Near to it, are still to be seen the vestiges of three steps up to the altar.—The *manse* is a little out of the village and was rebuilt about 9 or 10 years ago. The glebe consists of 8 acres, and the stipend is about 100 guineas*.—The *patronage* is in the Crown, as coming in the room of the Bishop of Dumblane. Besides the parish church, there are other three places of worship, viz. a chapel of ease, a church of England meeting house, and a Popish chapel. There are also the remains of a Roman catholic church at Strageath, and a chapel 2 miles to the southward.

3 Q 2

Schools.

* The present minister is Mr. John Scott, who succeeded his father in April 1767, whose predecessor was Mr. William Hally, the first Presbyterian minister after the Revolution, and who, for several years after his ordination, was obliged to preach from a tent in the church-yard, while the Episcopal incumbent kept possession of the church.

Schools.—There are in the parish 3 schools, at which about 300 boys and girls are annually educated. At the *parochial school* there are often about 100, many of whom come from distant parts of the country; and at each of the other two schools from 60 to 80. One of these schools has been established by the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, with a salary of 12*l.* There, 30 or 40 boys and girls are annually taught *gratis*. The other schoolmaster is precentor at the *chapel of ease*, lately built on the south side of the parish, and has a small salary, but chiefly depends upon the profits of his school.

Poor.—In a parish so extensive, where the farms are small, and where there are many day labourers and cottagers, situated at a distance from fuel, there is, as may naturally be supposed, a great number of poor. At present there are upwards of 20, who receive a monthly supply, and perhaps 30 more, who receive a little now and then from the parish funds. There are also some poor families, who, once a year, get what may serve to pay their house rent, to clothe one or more of their children, or to buy a few coals.—The *funds* consist of the collections at the church, which amount to about 30*l.* per annum :—The mortcloth dues, the rent of a few seats in the church, and interest of money, make about 18*l.* or 19*l.* more; to which the heritors (much to their honour), add 20*l.* Sterling, amounting, in whole, to within a trifle of 70*l.* Sterling; which, with what is given by the family at Drummond Castle, over and above Mr. Drummond's share, in common with other heritors, serves to keep the poor (in that neighbourhood), at home, without begging from door to door.

Antiquities.—There are two *Roman camps* in the parish; one at Strageath, and another at Ardoch; besides several forts of observation.

observation. The camp at *Stragsatb* is situated on the banks of the *Ern*, near *Innerpefray*. Its dimensions cannot now be ascertained with any degree of exactness; the lines and ditches being completely levelled, except in a few places. But from what remains, it seems not to have been strongly fortified. From its size, too, it appears to have been only a temporary station for a small army.

The camp at *Ardoch*, as being the most complete of any in Scotland, or perhaps in Great Britain, is entitled to a more particular description. Its situation gave it many advantages; being on the N. W. side of a deep moss, that runs a long way eastward. On the west side, it is partly defended by the steep banks of the water of *Knaick*; which bank rises perpendicularly between 40 and 50 feet. The north and east sides were most exposed; and there, we find, very particular care was taken to secure them. The ground on the east is pretty regular, and descends by a gentle slope from the lines of fortification, which, on that side, consist of five rows of ditches, perfectly entire, and running parallel to one another. These altogether are about 55 yards in breadth. On the north side there are an equal number of lines and ditches, but 20 yards broader than the former. On the west, besides the steep precipices above mentioned, it was defended by at least two ditches. One is still visible; the others have probably been filled up, in making the great military road from *Stirling* to the North.

The side of the camp, lying to the southward, exhibits to the antiquary a less pleasing prospect. Here the peasant's rugged hand has laid in ruins a great part of the lines; so that it may be with propriety said, in the words of a Latin poet, "*Jam seges est, ubi Troja fuit*." However, from the remains yet to be traced, it appears there were also 3 or 4 ditches,

4 ditches, which, with its natural advantages, rendered this side as strong and as secure as any of the others. The 4 entrenchments crossing the lines, at right angles, are still distinctly to be seen.

The area of the camp is an oblong of 140 yards, by 125 within the lines. The *General's Quarter* rises above the level of the camp, but is not in the center. It is a regular square, each side being exactly 40 yards. At present, it exhibits evident marks of having been inclosed with a stone wall, and contains the foundations of a house, 10 yards by 7. That a place of worship has been erected here, is not improbable, as it has obtained the name of *Chapel Hill* from time immemorial.

Besides the camp above mentioned, so completely fortified both by nature and art, (and which is supposed to have been formed by *Agricola*, for the Roman legions under his command,) there are other two encampments adjoining to it, and having a communication with one another, containing above 130 acres of ground. These seem to have been defended by only a single ditch and rampart, and probably were intended for the cavalry and auxiliaries. Here was room for all the forces, that fought under *Agricola* near the Grampian mountains, notwithstanding what has been said by Mr. Gordon, in his *Itinerarium Septentrionale*, to the contrary; who probably imagined, as others have done since, that the whole ground at Ardoch, fortified by the Romans, lay within the small camp above mentioned.

It has already been observed, that the two large encampments had a communication with one another; and, that there was a subterraneous passage from the small one, under the bed of the river, is more than probable, from a circumstance now to be mentioned. There was a *bole* near the side of the *prætorium*, that went in a sloping direction for many fathoms;

in which, it was generally believed, treasures, as well as Roman antiquities, might be found. In order to ascertain this fact, a man, who had been condemned by the baron court of a neighbouring lord, upon obtaining a pardon, agreed to be let down by a rope into this hole. He at first brought up with him, from a great depth, Roman spears, helmets, fragments of bridles, and several other articles: But upon being let down a second time, was killed by *foul air*. No attempts have been made since that time. The articles, above mentioned, lay at the house of Ardoch for many years, but were all carried off, by some of the soldiers in the Duke of Argyll's army, in 1715, after the battle of Sheriffmuir, and could never afterwards be recovered. The mouth of the hole was covered up with a millstone, by an old gentleman, who lived at the house of Ardoch, while the family were in Russia, about the year 1720, to prevent hares from running into it, when pursued by his dogs; and as earth, to a considerable depth, was laid over the millstone, the place cannot now be found, although diligent search has been made for it.

When the Ardoch Family returned to the country, the camp was used as pasture ground for cattle; and, by Sir William Stirling, the present proprietor, has been inclosed with a high stone wall, that it may never again suffer by a ploughshare. He has also prohibited the tenants from plowing up, or otherwise demolishing, any part of the remaining lines or ramparts round the two larger camps. He has now an urn, perfectly entire, which was dug up near the west side of the *pratorium*, or general's quarters, containing ashes, and some small pieces of a human skull*.

Drummond

* A number of *stone coffins*, with skeletons in them, were not long ago found, in forming a road by the side of the camp to the house of Ardoch. In a cairn, about a mile to the westward, no less than 182 feet in length, 30 feet in a sloping height, and 45 feet in breadth at the base, there was found a stone coffin,

Drummond Castle.—The building most worthy of notice is the old Castle of Drummond, the ancient seat of the noble family of Perth. It stands upon a rock, about a mile to the westward of the military road, and was built in the year 1490. It was unroofed and partly demolished in 1689; yet the walls in some places were so strong and entire, that a part of them have been lately repaired, and fitted up for a library, by the present proprietor. The house, in which the family have resided

in, in which there was a skeleton 7 feet long. The cairn lay from north to south, and the coffin was nearly in the middle of it, with the head on the east. Most of the stones have been carried away to inclose the neighbouring farms; but the coffin, with a few large stones around it, has, by order of Sir William Stirling, been preserved.

There are, in some places, the remains of *Druidical temples*, and there are many single large stones that stand up on end, 10, 12, and some 14 feet in height. They are generally on elevated situations, and of a grey colour; possibly some of those, celebrated by the Gaelic bard, which mark the grave of a chief, or the place where he fell in battle: "These may be the stones of renown, raised to the soul that never melted before, but was like the steel of his sword."

There is in the parish a Roman road or causeway, a great part of which is now covered over with heath, leading from Ardoch to a fort of observation, called *Camp's Castle*, situated on the top of the Muir of Orchil, the lines of which are still very distinct. There is also another fort of observation, larger, but not so entire as the one above mentioned, which is situated to the northward of the house of Orchil.

It is worthy of notice, that, close by Drummond Castle, there is a small rock, called *Eagle's Craig*, and, by the country people, *Sacra Hill*, from whence a fire in the night might be seen, at the distance of 40 or 50 miles to the eastward. The top of it is flat, and covered with ashes to a considerable depth. It is within two miles of Strageath, and may be seen from Camp's Castle, and from almost every part of a Roman road or causeway, running from Strageath for miles together, eastward, in a straight line, to the parks of Gask, where there are still the remains of a Roman station. From which it is evident, that this rock has been a place of signals, and hence derived its name.

resided for a century bygone, and in which it now resides, is on the same rock with the Castle, a little to the eastward. It is a plain building, that had originally been intended as only a temporary lodging, but is now enlarged, and made very convenient; and although an old house modernized, (like many other seats in the parish), yet its pleasant situation, and its beautiful and unbounded prospect to the eastward, attract the notice and the admiration of every stranger.

Miscellaneous Observations.—There are in the parish 5 or 6 stills, of 40 gallons each, for making whisky. There are 8 meal mills of old standing, and 4 flax mills, three of which have been erected but lately. Besides these, since 1770, there have been built in the parish, 5 mills for threshing corn, 2 of which are driven by water. There is also an oil mill, and a cotton work upon a small scale.—There is 1 coach; 6 four wheeled chaises, and 1 single horse chaise, in the parish.—Since the period above mentioned, the prices of labour and provisions, have increased more in proportion, than they have done in most other places; owing partly to the number of gentlemen, that now reside in the country, and partly to the thriving state of the tenantry. At that time, the highest wages the farmers gave to an able bodied man servant, did not exceed 4l. or at most 5l. Sterling; and female servants had from 25s. to 35s. per annum: whereas now, the men's wages are from 7l. to 10l., and the women's wages from 2l. 10s. to 3l. 10s. A day labourer can now earn 1s. per day in the summer, and in autumn as much, besides his victuals, whose wages formerly never exceeded the half of that sum. Butcher meat, which could then be bought for 2d., is now 4d. per pound. Hens, chickens, and eggs are more than double the price they were formerly; and ten times the quantity of all those articles is now used.—The strongest winds blow from the S. W., and the coldest from the

E. and N. E. ; whilst the Grampian Hills, which rise to a great height, at the distance of a few miles, not only screen from the northern blasts, but likewise attract the clouds so often, that in many places of the parish, especially on the banks of the Ern, and to the southward, there is clear sunshine, while heavy showers of rain and snow are falling thick, in the neighbouring parts, to the northward.

Upon the whole, there are few places, that have more local advantages than Strathern : But, what the people, in this part of the country, chiefly stand in need of, is a COAL PIT, which, if they had, there would be no situation more agreeable. Good roads are now making to all the market towns ; and large plantations of useful trees are fast advancing ; which, in time, will pave the way to the introduction of manufactures, and will keep at home numbers of young people, (who at present are obliged to seek employment in distant parts) ; as well as afford opportunities, for the rising generation, to acquire those habits of industry, in early life, which may serve to render them useful members of society, in their riper years*.

NUMBER

* As a mill-stone is said to cover a hole or deposit, where Roman antiquities have been found, and where more may still lie concealed, it appears to be no way difficult, to find out the pit by the means of the mill-stone ; and it is very desirable to explore it, notwithstanding the foul air it may now contain. Fire is often caused by means to prove the air. Perpendicular shafts may be worked to a very great depth, without requiring any renovation of air, by the means of pipes. If, therefore, this pit contains foul air, at a small depth, it is, most probably, from the nature of the soil, from its containing sulphur, &c. and may be worth exploring, on that account.—If, when the hole is at a particular depth, it is supposed to lead horizontally to a certain direction, it may be necessary to sink down a shaft in this place, to communicate fresh air.—Supposing the hole to be a place of deposit, or a gallery of communication to any particular place, it cannot be so deep, as to make the foul air a matter of much difficulty or expence to get rid of.—The mouth of the hole may be enlarged.

NUMBER XXX.

UNITED PARISHES OF MOY AND
DALAROSSIE.

(County and Presbytery of Inverness—Synod of Moray.)

*By the Rev. Mr. WILLIAM M'BEAN, late Minister of that
Parish, and now Minister of ALVES.*

Origin of the Name.

THE Gaelic is almost the only language used in these parishes, and has been so, as far back as tradition goes. The names of all the places in them are evidently of Gaelic derivation, and descriptive of their situation, or some other property. Accordingly, Moy, in Gaelic, *Magh*, signifies a meadow or plain, which is the nature of the place; Dalarossie, or Dalfergussie, is Fergus's valley. The ancient name is *Starfach-na-gal*, i.e. *the Threshold of the Gaels, or Highlanders*, being the pass, by which the Highlanders entered to the Low Country, so narrow between high mountains, that a few men could defend it against numbers. It was of great consequence to the proprietor in those times, as he could make inroads into the Low Country, and easily prevent any pursuit beyond

that pass. He could likewise hinder any of the neighbouring clans from passing this place without his consent. So sensible were they of their dependence on him, upon this account, that they agreed to pay him a certain tax, as often as he gave them permission to take this road with their booty; which tax is still known by the name of *Staic-chriach*, i. e. the steak or collop of the booty, expressive of the quality of this plunder, which was cattle. After the place was cleared of wood and cultivated, it obtained the present name of *Moy*. It came into the possession of William, the 7th Laird of Mackintosh, in the year 1336, and was conveyed to him by David Bishop of Murray. The Laird of Mackintosh, who is undoubted chief of that clan, is likewise captain of Clan Chattan. The Clan Chattan consisted of 16 tribes, each having their own chieftain, but all voluntarily united under the government of one leader, of whom the present Laird of Mackintosh is the representative.

Extent and Surface.—The greatest length of the parish, from S. W. to N. E., is about 30 miles, and the mean breadth about 5 miles. This country is bleak and barren, rugged and mountainous, except small stripes and spots on each side of the river Findhorn, to be afterwards described.

Climate and Diseases.—The climate is much colder here than in the neighbouring parishes, which is supposed to be occasioned by the great height of the mountains. Vegetation is accordingly later, than in the places that lie nearer the Murray Frith; and the crops, in cold seasons, are liable to suffer by the lateness of the harvest. The snow generally begins to fall about the middle of November, and frequently continues until March or April. In the year 1782, the frost and snow overtook the crops of grain almost before any of them were
ripe ;

ripe; and they lay buried under the snow till February 1783. Though every possible exertion was made to recover them, yet very little was obtained. The people were in the most miserable condition for provisions; obliged to purchase them at a great distance, and at such a high price, that many families were put on very short allowance. Many were reduced to extreme indigence, from which they have not yet recovered.—But notwithstanding the coldness of the climate, the inhabitants are as healthy, if not more so, than their neighbours. They are not liable to any peculiar local diseases, and many of them live to a very great age. Two persons died last spring at the age of 93; and there are several at present in the parish near 90 years of age, who enjoy their strength and faculties, very little impaired for that advanced age.

Soil and Produce.—The cultivated ground in the parish bears but a very small proportion to that which is lying waste, perhaps not above a 15th part. But the soil, of what is cultivated, is, for the most part, of a very good quality, and, in favourable seasons, produces plentiful crops. The grain raised here is chiefly black oats. Some Scotch barley and rye are likewise raised. All the tenants and their cottagers plant potatoes, which ordinarily thrive remarkably well, and make a considerable part of their maintenance. In favourable years, the produce is nearly equal to the consumption of the parish; but, in unfavourable seasons, when the crops fail, they are under a necessity of procuring considerable quantities of grain from other places. The quantity of grain, necessary for the support of the inhabitants, would require to be much greater, were it not that the numbers of cattle and sheep, kept in the parish, furnish them with flesh and milk in aid of other provisions.

Mode

Mode of Cultivation.—Farming is carried on almost in the same method at present, that was in use for ages past ; very few improvements have been introduced, nor do the people seem disposed to adopt any. Instead of laying the whole dung of the farm on the barley land, according to the general custom in other places, it is all laid here on the ley land, which they break up for oats ; excepting a small part of it, which is reserved for the little barley that is sown, and the potatoes.

Ploughs, Cattle, &c.—On account of the shortness of the labouring season, the number of ploughs in the parish, is much greater than the quantity of land would otherwise require. They are not fewer than 246, and chiefly drawn by 4 horses each, and sometimes there are two oxen along with the horses. The number of horses in this parish is about 900 ; the number of black cattle 1,800 ; and of sheep 12,000. There is a considerable number of each of these kinds of cattle sold annually, with the price of which the tenants pay their rents, and provide for themselves all the articles that their farms do not furnish.—The sheep, upon the large sheep farms, are of the black faced kind ; but those, kept by the tenants, are a cross breed, between the large black faced, and the small sheep, formerly kept in the country. The wool of the large sheep is of a coarser quality, than that of the small ; the wool of the latter sells from 16s to 18s. per stone, Dutch weight.

Wild Animals, Birds, &c.—Foxes are very numerous overall this country, and very destructive to the sheep and poultry. Of late years, a fox-hunter has been hired by the neighbourhood to destroy them. The parish abounds in polecats, otters, and badgers. The red deer are very numerous about the source of the Findhorn. The woods in Moy abound with roes. Black game and grouse are so plentiful in this parish, that
many

many gentlemen resort to it in the shooting season. Cranes and wild ducks nestle in the island in the lake of Moy. On a high rock, above the river Findhorn, an eagle has for many years built her nest.

Woods.—There is a good deal of natural wood on the banks of the river Findhorn, chiefly birch and alders. There is a tradition, that before this country came into the possession of Mackintosh, it was in a great measure over-run with wood, and called the Forest of Strathdearn; that it was set on fire through carelessness, and destroyed by the inhabitants, when they began to clear the ground for cultivation.—The Laird of Mackintosh has very considerable plantations of Scotch firs mixed with forest trees; to which he is making additions annually. These plantations are in a thriving way, and in a short space of time, will decorate the country, and be of very great service to the inhabitants.

Rivers.—The river Findhorn takes its rise, in the hills of this parish, from a few inconsiderable springs, the principal one of which issues, in a copious stream, from what is called the *Cloven Stone*, a large rock with a fissure in it. The direction of this river is nearly from S. W. to N. E. After running for the course of 24 miles through this parish, it passes through those of Calder, Ardclach, Edenkeillie, Dyke and Forres, and falls into the Murray Frith at Findhorn, in the parish of Kinloss. The whole course of it, from its source to the sea, is about 50 miles. It is called, in English, *Findhorn*, from the place at which it enters the sea; but the Gaelic name of it is *Uisg-earn*. From thence this parish, through which it runs for the space of 24 miles, is called Strathdearn. As this river runs, for all this course, between high mountains, and receives many streams or rivulets in its progress,
it

it rises very rapidly, and falls at times very suddenly. There is but 1 bridge over it, through the whole of this course; and the people at a distance from the bridge, having frequent occasion to cross the river, often attempt to ford it in an improper state, by which many lives are lost. This river abounds with a great variety of trouts; some salmon are also found in it within the bounds of this parish, especially in seasons that have frequent *spcats* or floods, that enable the salmon to get over the rocks, which obstruct their passage when the river is low. There are a number of lesser streams and rivalets in the parish, but none of them of such importance as to deserve particular notice.

Lake, Island, &c.—The Lake of Moy is the only considerable one in this parish. By an actual measurement of it, taken on the ice, its greatest length is $1\frac{1}{2}$, and the greatest breadth $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile. This lake abounds with *charr* (commonly called *red wames*), and a great variety of other trouts, of different sizes and colours. About the middle of the lake there is an island, consisting of about 2 acres of ground. It lies N. and S., and is nearly the shape of a violin. At the south end of the island, there are the remains of a house, containing 4 fire rooms, where the Lairds of Mackintosh resided in times of trouble. By an inscription above the gate, it is said to have been built in the year 1665, by Lauchlan the 20th Laird of Mackintosh. Adjoining to the house, there is a garden, planted with fruit trees and currant bushes. It appears, by the ruins still remaining, that there have formerly been very extensive buildings in this island. The remains of a street, the whole length of the island, with the foundations of houses on each side, are still very visible; and in the year 1760, two ovens were discovered, each capable to contain 4 bushels of

meal

meal made into bread. In the year 1422, it contained a garrison of 400 men. In those troublesome times, when it was necessary to live either in fortified or inaccessible places, the Lairds of Mackintosh resided here constantly, except in the winter seasons. At the distance of some hundred yards from this, there is an artificial island formed, by heaping a parcel of large round stones upon each other. This place was used for the confinement of malefactors, before the abolition of the jurisdiction power, which was vested in the hands of the chiefs. When the lake was low, the criminal could scarce stand with dry feet; but after rains, the water rose to his middle. Luckily, however, for the prisoner, in 24 hours he was either acquitted or condemned. This place is called *Ellan-na-glach*, i. e. *the Stoney Island*.

Mineral Well.—At the north end of the lake, there is a well of mineral water, which is accounted serviceable for headachs, and disorders of the stomach. There is no account of its being analysed, so as to have its qualities ascertained; but it appears to be of the chalybeate kind.

Population.—The parish register having been destroyed a few years ago, by an accidental fire, a list of baptisms and marriages cannot now be made out; nor can the population be ascertained in that way. The following is the result of a late enumeration, taken for the purpose of this statement: The deaths are not recorded in this, or the neighbouring parishes, and therefore cannot be ascertained.

| | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|---|--------|----------|--------|
| Number of examinable persons, - | 757 | 843 | 1600 |
| children under 7 years | | | |
| of age, - - - - - | - | - | 213 |
| Total number of souls, - - - - - | - | - | 1813 |
| The return to Dr. Webster, in 1755, was - - - - - | - | - | 1693 |
| Increase, - - - - - | - | - | 120 |

LIST OF BIRTHS AND MARRIAGES for the last four years.

| | 1788 | 1789 | 1790 | 1791 | Total. | Ann. Aver. |
|------------------|------|------|------|------|--------|------------|
| Baptisms, - - - | 34 | 45 | 32 | 49 | 160 | 40 |
| Marriages, - - - | 18 | 10 | 12 | 45 | 55 | 13½ |

There have not been many new houses built for these several years; but of late some parts of the parish, which contained a great number of inhabitants, have been laid out in sheep farms, which has diminished the population very considerably; and if this sheep farming plan shall be extended here, as is proposed, it is thought it will occasion a still farther diminution of the population.

Occupations.—In these united parishes, there are no towns, villages, nor manufactories of any kind. All the inhabitants are employed in cultivating the ground, and in tending their cattle, excepting a few artificers; such as, square wrights, blacksmiths, weavers, tailors and shoemakers, who work for the other inhabitants. The generality of the tenants occupy small farms, for which they pay from gl. to 10l. Sterling of yearly rent. All these tenants have cottagers, who are employed as servants and labourers by them, or follow the occupations already mentioned*. The number, either of tenants

* The wages of labourers are increased considerably of late years. About 30 or 40 years ago, that of an ordinary farm servant, including some perquisites,

nants or cottagers, cannot be ascertained with precision ; but it is supposed, that the number of the former is about 200, and that of the latter not less than 340; which, with the proprietors residing in the parish, makes the number of houses a few more than 540.

Proprietors, Rent, &c.—These parishes are the property of 13 heritors, all holding of subject superiors, except the Laird of Mackintosh. Five of these heritors reside in the parish. The valued rent of the parish is 2,234l. Scotch. The real rent is about 1000l. Sterling, and is increasing considerably, by sheep farms. As pasturage is an important object here, in letting of farms, pasture ground is considered as well as the arable land ; and land is let not *by the acre*, but *by the piece*, or *lump* ; and therefore the rent per acre cannot be specified. Besides the rent in money, customs are paid *in kind* by most of the tenants, such as wedders, eggs, fowls, and other articles. Personal services are likewise exacted by the proprietors from their tenants ; as casting and carrying home a certain quantity of fuel ; shearing a certain number of days in harvest ; carrying loads from distant parts of the country ; and performing numbers of other things, that are scarce worth mentioning, but which are very troublesome to the poor people liable to this treatment.

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Ecclesiastical

was from 10s. to 12s. in the half year ; and a day labourer had 4d. per day, with his maintenance, and 7d. without it. Now, the wages of a farm servant is from 2l. to 2l. 15s. in the half year ; that of a labourer 6d. with, and 1s. without victuals, per day. The wages of a female servant, about 50 years ago, was between 6s. and 7s. ; now, from 15s. to 20s. Sterling in the half year. Female servants always receive their maintenance in the family, in which they live ; the greater part of the men servants have their victuals in the family, and some receive meal in lieu of their victuals, at the rate of 6 bolls per annum to a full grown man, and 4 bolls of 9 Stone Dutch weight each, to boys.

Ecclesiastical State.—This is an united parish, as already observed, made up of the original parishes of Moy and Dalarossie. There is no account, written or traditional, when the annexation took place: yet, in many respects, the parishes are distinct and separate, though under the charge of one minister. There is still a church kept up in each, in which divine service is performed alternately. These churches are 9 miles distant from each other: the road is at all times rough, and in the stormy season, frequently impassable. The church of Moy was built in the year 1765, and is still in good repair. The church of Dalarossie was rebuilt in the year 1790. Mr. Rose of Kilravock is accounted patron, and has hitherto always presented to it.—The stipend is 69l 14s. 2d., with a small glebe in each parish. The manse was built in the year 1765, and has lately received some reparation, which has made it tolerably comfortable.—All the inhabitants of this parish are of the Established Church, except a few individuals, who are of the Episcopal Communion, but commonly attend divine service in the parish church.

Schools.—There is a parochial school established in this parish. The school-house was rebuilt in 1784, in a pretty sufficient manner. The salary is 100l. Scotch. The school-master is ordinarily session-clerk, by which he makes about 2l. 10s. Sterling annually. The school fees are, 1s. for reading and writing, 1s. 6d. for arithmetic, and 2s. for Latin. All these emoluments put together, will make about 20l. Sterling in the year. The poor are much inclined to give a little education to their children; but so extensive is the parish, that a very inconsiderable part of them only can be accommodated by the parochial school.

Peer.

Poor.—There are a number of poor people in this parish, but most of them do something in the way of providing for their own maintenance, and receive what aid can be given them from the parish funds. These funds are very inconsiderable, being only the weekly collections, which do not exceed 4l. or 5l. Sterling in the year. Such as are altogether incapable of labouring are relieved by the neighbourhood: But as the practice of common begging is not restrained, many of them betake themselves to that method of obtaining support.

Roads and Bridges.—The road from Inverness to Perth passes through this parish. It was made, and is still kept in repair, by Government. Besides a large and useful bridge on the river Findhorn, there is a number of smaller ones on this road, within the parish, which were built and kept in repair at the public expence. There are roads of communication betwixt the different parts of the parish, now forming by the statute labour; but there is so much to be done in that way, that it will take a considerable time before these roads can be completed.

Inns and Alehouses.—There are in this parish 2 inns, on the public road, and about 12 small public houses that sell whisky. The whisky houses are exceedingly detrimental to the morals of the people, as they are so many temptations, in every different part of the parish, to idleness, quarrelling, and many other vices.—It is supposed, that the coldness of the climate renders the use of spirits more necessary than in milder situations; but whatever may be in that, it is much to be regretted, that, instead of making that moderate use of spirits, most of the people, that resort to these small public houses, seldom depart without going to excess.

Character

Character and Manners.—The inhabitants of these parishes, however, are, in general, sober, peaceable, and industrious. Crimes of an atrocious nature are rare among them. The climate is rather unfavourable to the constant exercise of industry, as during the stormy season in winter, and a great part of spring, they can do little, except taking care of their cattle ; but as soon as the season permits them to labour without doors, their exertions are very great, until the seed time is over. In summer, they are employed in providing fuel, which consists of peats ; and as the climate is unfavourable, on the one hand, this inconvenience is in a great measure remedied, by the great plenty of fuel in every part of the parish. In harvest they are equally diligent in cutting down and securing their corn, before the bad weather sets in.—In their manners, they are remarkably attached to old customs and practices. The language, dress, and most of the peculiarities of the old Highlanders, continue in this place, with very little alteration. Excepting the gentry, few of the inhabitants of this place speak English ; nor do they discover much inclination to acquire that language. The tartan plaid and kilt, and the other parts of dress peculiar to the Highlanders, are still in general use among the men ; the women, in like manner, retain the Highland dress of that sex. Their houses are of the same construction with those of their predecessors for ages past ; and they still place the fire in the middle of the house, and the family sits in the form of a circle around it.

NUMBER XXXI.

PARISH OF LESLY.

(Presbytery of Garioch—County and Synod of Aberdeen.)

*By the Rev. Mr. J. HARPER, Assistant to the Rev. Mr. ALEX.
STEWART, Minister of that Parish,*

Origin of the Name.

THE ancient and modern name of the parish is Lesly ; the etymology of which is uncertain. There is a tradition, that one *Bartholemew de Leslyn*, a noble Hungarian, came to Scotland with Queen Margaret, about the year 1067 ; that he was a son of *Walter de Leslyn*, who had taken his surname from the castle of Leslyn in Hungary, where he was born ; and that he, or some of his descendants, having obtained a grant of certain lands in Garioch, called them by his own name. It is certain, that the family of Rothes were long proprietors of a considerable part of the parish of Leslie*, and other lands in Garioch, and it is not improbable that the parish derives its appellation from them. A charter was granted by James II. to George, designed *Dominus de Lesly*, erecting

* At that period, Lord Glamis was proprietor of the other part of the parish.

erecting the town of Lesly into a burgh of barony, with the privilege of a weekly market on Thursday, and a yearly fair at Michaelmas. Both these, however, have long ago been discontinued.

Situation, Extent, Surface, Soil and Climate.—This parish is situated in the west part of that district of Aberdeenshire called Garioch. Its length from E. to W. is about 2 computed miles, and its breadth nearly the same. The general appearance of the parish is rather hilly; but these little hills are capable of being cultivated almost to their summits. The Water of Gadie, so sweetly celebrated by Arthur Johnston, in his elegant Latin poems, runs through the parish, from W. to E. and divides it almost into two equal parts. It is here but an inconsiderable rivulet, but abounds with small trout. The soil of the lower grounds, on the south side of the water, is a deep, strong, rich mould, on a clayey bottom; and produces good crops of bear and oats, with very indifferent culture. The lands on the north side, are a light loamy soil, on a bed of rock or gravel, and though they do not yield such weighty crops, are earlier than those on the south side of the parish. The air is reckoned salubrious, though rather moist: and the seasons are somewhat later than in the lower end of the Garioch.

Produce, Cultivation, &c.—The chief productions are oats, bear, a few acres of pease, turnips, potatoes, and a little hay. The spirit of improvement has not yet reached this district, or at least in a very partial degree; and the mode of cultivation generally adopted is wretchedly bad. The same method of tillage, and cropping the ground, still prevails, which was practised perhaps 200 years ago. With the advantage of an excellent soil, a tolerable climate, and rents by no means extravagant

travagant, the farmer toils on from day to day, harrasses and perplexes himself, and, after all, with difficulty procures the necessaries of life for himself and family. Though instances of improvement daily occur, and the benefits resulting from thence are obvious, an obstinate attachment to old established practices too much prevails, and neither precept nor example will induce them to alter their plan. What is called *insfeld* is constantly kept in tillage. The rotation of crops, is, bear, with dung; then two crops of oats, and then the land is dunged again for bear. The dung is laid upon the stubble during winter, where it lies in small heaps, exposed to all the inclemency of the season, till the oat seed is finished. The dung is then spread, and the ground gets a kind of ribbing, and directly after that the seed furrow. The outfields or faughs carry 4 crops of oats without any dung, and then lie 5 or 6 years in pasture, except the part on which the cattle are folded upon during summer, which carries 5 crops of oats. Some of the faughs are sown with a species of black bearded oats, which will require 2 and sometimes 3 bolls, to yield 1 boll of meal.—A very few of the tenants are indeed beginning to adopt a better method of management. They sow a few turnips, and some rye-grass and clover. But their great distance from lime and other manures, together with the badness of the roads and the scarcity of money, must render their progress in improvements but slow.—Notwithstanding this wretched method of cultivation, the parish can spare annually, at an average, about 700 bolls of meal, and 200 bolls of bear; a clear evidence of the goodness of the soil. An early species of oats has been lately introduced, which are likely to be of great benefit. They are a fortnight earlier, than the common oats, and produce fully as much meal. They are called the *Peebles*, or *Lord Chief Baron's oats*, and were first imported into this country in the year 1783.

Population.—The former and present state of the population of this parish is exactly stated, along with the rent and several other particulars, in the following table :

STATISTICAL TABLE of the PARISH of LESLY.

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------|-----|
| Number of souls in 1782, - | 413 | Number of Members of the Estab- | |
| —— ditto in 1792, - | 392 | lished Church, - | 322 |
| Decrease, within these 10 years, - | 21 | —— Roman Catholics, - | 4 |
| Population in 1755, - | 319 | —— Proprietors non-re- | |
| Increase within these 40 years, - | 94 | siding *, - | 2 |
| Number of marriages during the | | —— Clergymen, - | 1 |
| last 10 years, - | 36 | —— Schoolmasters, - | 1 |
| —— Births, males 49, } - | 95 | —— Farmers above 50l. | |
| females 46, } | | per annum, - | 1 |
| —— Deaths, - | 33 | —— ditto under 50l., - | 24 |
| —— males, - | 184 | —— Shopkeepers, - | 2 |
| —— females, - | 208 | —— Smiths, - | 1 |
| —— persons under 10 years | | —— Carpenters, - | 4 |
| of age, - | 82 | —— Weavers, - | 7 |
| —— do. between 10 and | | —— Tailors, - | 5 |
| 20, - | 66 | —— Millers, - | 5 |
| —— do. between 20 and | | —— Male farm servants, - | 32 |
| 50, - | 172 | —— Female ditto, - | 25 |
| —— do. above 50, - | 72 | —— Poor, - | 4 |
| | | Capital of their funds, 140l. | |
| | | Annual income (col- | |
| | | lections, seat rents, &c.), 61 | |

Number

* Vis. Colonel Hay of Ranner, and William Forbes Leith, Esq. of Whitebought.

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|-----|----|
| Number of Young persons taught | Number of acres of Moss, | - | 60 |
| English, Writing, | Carta, | - | 60 |
| &c. - - - 20 | Ploughs †, | - | 22 |
| acres of arable | Valued rent, in Scotch | | |
| ground *, - 1600 | money, - - L.1533 | 0 | 0 |
| do. meadow, or pasture†, - - 300 | Real rent, anno 1792 §, | 700 | 0 |

VALUE OF STOCK.

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|------|-------|--------|---|---|
| Number of horses, - 120, valued at L.8 | 0 | 0 | each | Total | L.880 | 0 | 0 |
| black cattle, 580, - - - 3 | 0 | 0 | — | — | 1740 | 0 | 0 |
| sheep, - 1200, - - - 0 | 5 | 0 | — | — | 300 | 0 | 0 |
| Total value of stock, | | | | - | L.2920 | 0 | 0 |

Manufactures, &c.—The only manufacture, carried on here, is a coarse kind of stockings, in which almost all the women are engaged. The wool is dispersed over the country by different manufacturers in Aberdeen, whose servants collect the stockings, and pay for the knitting. This branch of trade has been of very great benefit to the district. They get from 10d. to 1s. for knitting each pair; and a good hand will spin and knit 3 pairs a week. It is computed, that there are about 9000 pairs manufactured annually in this parish, which, at an average, bring in about 400l.

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* Of these there are 600 acres of good croft, or infield, which let, at an average, at 16s. or 18s. per acre. The outfield, some of which is very poor, lets at 4s.

† Besides a pretty large extent of heath and sheep pasture.

‡ These ploughs are drawn by 8, 10, and some by 12 oxen; and 5 or 6 drawn by horses and oxen, or cows, yoked together. The ploughs are of the old Scotch kind, and generally of a very bad construction. There is only 1 plough, drawn by a pair of horses, in the parish. In the year 1752, there was not one cart in the parish. The inhabitants then carried out their farm dung in creels on horses backs, and brought home their fuel in summer in the same manner. This slovenly practice is now almost entirely laid aside, the farmers having all got carts.

§ The price of meal is here computed at 10s. per boll.

Ecclesiastical State and School—Colonel Hay of Ramses is patron. The value of the living, exclusive of the manse, and a glebe of 5 acres, is 104 bolls meal, 2½ bolls bear, and 5l. 1s. 2½d. besides the vicarage tithes of a part of the parish, which will amount to about 4l. per annum. The manse was built in 1732, and is now ruinous; but the heritors have agreed to build a commodious new one in 1793. The church is old, but in very good repair.—The encouragement for a schoolmaster here is very poor. The salary is only 4½ bolls of meal, and 1l. 13s. 4d. being the interest of a half years vacant stipend bequeathed by the family of Leithhall. Notwithstanding which, the present schoolmaster has remained in this office since the year 1745, and is perfectly satisfied and contented with his lot.

Poor.—Besides the poor upon the roll, who receive public charity, a few others get occasional supplies. None belonging to the parish are permitted to beg. This however does not prevent a number of vagrants, from other places, strolling about and extorting alms from the inhabitants, and often pilfering what they can lay their hands upon. The funds belonging to the poor, above stated, are lent out at interest. The greatest part of it was mortified by Mr. William Watson, and Mr. William Forbes, both ministers of Lesly. In the year 1782, very little encroachment was made upon the capital belonging to the poor; for though they were pretty numerous, and provisions very dear, yet they were liberally supplied; the Rev. Mr. Stewart having generously lent money to the kirk-session, without interest, for purchasing meal to the poor sort of inhabitants, which was sold out at a reduced price; and to those who could not afford to purchase, it was given gratis.

Diseases.

Diseases.—The most common diseases are fevers, of the slow nervous kind ; these are not often fatal. Sometimes inflammatory fevers, attended with putrid symptoms, appear, which are generally very dangerous. Many are likewise subject to rheumatic complaints, and a scrophulous taint of the blood seems to pervade a pretty large proportion, of the inhabitants of this and the neighbouring districts, owing perhaps to the poor low diet they use, and the cold damp huts they inhabit.

Fuel.—The fuel here used is peat and turf; neither of them good in their kind. This fuel, from the time and labour it requires, in the best part of the summer, may be reckoned expensive in the most favourable seasons, and has always been found to retard the improvement of every country, and the advancement of manufactures, especially where manure must be brought from a distance. Could coals from Newcastle or Sunderland be got during summer, at a moderate price, the advantage to this district would be considerable. The expence of freight and charges of importation must always affect this part of Scotland : But were the heavy duty on coals removed, the revenue of the kingdom, would soon receive, from the increasing population and prosperity of the people, much more than it ever can derive from a tax, which is one of the greatest obstacles to their advancement.

Minerals.—In several places, on the south side of the parish, there is a kind of jasper, or amyanthus, found. It has a greenish kind of tinge, with grey streaks interspersed. The country people make snuff boxes and other trinkets of it ; but no quarries have been opened, nor blocks of any size wrought.

Antiquities.

Antiquities, &c.—With regard to antiquities, this parish has little to boast. The remains of two Druidical temples still appear, but neither of them are very entire.—At the head of the Den of Chapletown, on the east side of the road, leading from Lesly to Alford, there is a place called the *Four Lords' Seat*, or *Little John's length*. It is a small circular, artificial hollow, about 5 feet diameter, and 3 or 4 feet deep. Tradition reports that four different proprietors met at that place, and dined together, each of them sitting upon his own ground. The four proprietors are said to have been, the Lord of Lesly, Lord Glammis, the proprietor of Putachie, and the Bishop of Aberdeen. A little to the southwest of this place, there are some vestiges of an encampment, in several places, the fosse is very distinct, and in others almost quite filled up. A little to the West of this encampment, there are a good many cairns or *tumuli*. One in particular, larger than the rest, is called *cock's cairn*. None of them have been opened. There is a tradition, that a battle was fought here, but when, or by whom, is quite uncertain.

Character.—The inhabitants are a sober, honest, decent, well behaved set of people; some of them active and industrious: They are humane and charitable, friendly and hospitable. Many of them are well informed in the principles of religion, and are pious without ostentation. There are no particular vices, to which they are generally addicted. Capital crimes are unknown. They enjoy the comforts of life in as great a degree as their neighbours of the same rank, and seem to be pretty well satisfied with their condition.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—This parish, though the soil in general be excellent, and the climate tolerable, yet labour

hour under several great disadvantages. Its distance from market, being 30 miles from Aberdeen, the nearest sea port, is none of the least considerable. Thither the superfluous produce of the lands must be carried, through roads execrably bad. The distance from lime, too, so necessary to the farmer, is another great obstacle to improvement. The scarcity of servants, and the high wages they now demand, are also grievances, but by no means peculiar to this parish*. In a word, rent, the price of labour, and every article necessary to a farm is greatly raised to the husbandman, while the value of the produce of his fields continues pretty much the same. Cattle is the only stock whose value is increased; but this parish does not rear many.

Proposed Improvements.—All these disadvantages, however, might in a great measure be overcome, by granting longer leases to the tenants; by releasing them from thirlage to mills, and services of every kind; by assisting them to build better houses; by encouraging industry and improvements of every kind; and, above all, by attending more to the state of the public roads. The inhabitants perform the statute work upon the highways; but good roads will never be made by statute labour, at least in the manner, in which, it is conducted in this district. It distresses the people, but is of no advantage to the public. A patriotic zeal, for improving the roads, seems,

* About 20 years ago, the wages of a common male farm servant were about 3l. per annum; none are now to be got under 6l. At that period, the best shearer, in harvest, got 1l.; the common wages now are 2l. A day labourer then earned 4d. a day; now from 6d. to 8d., besides victuals. Should servants wages continue to increase, for a few years, in the same proportion as they have done since 1783, the consequences must be, either the rent of land must fall, or the tenant become bankrupt, and the lands be turned into grass.

seems, however, now to animate the gentlemen of this county. The proprietors of land, in the neighbouring district of Alford, have set on foot a plan, for making an excellent road by subscription, from that part of the country to Aberdeen, which, when finished, will be of the greatest utility ; and, it is to be hoped, the gentlemen of Garioch, will imitate so laudable an example.

NUMBER

NUMBER XXXII.

PARISH OF HAWICK.

(County of Roxburgh—Presbytery of Jedburgh—Synod of Merse and Teviotdale.)

By the Rev. Mr. ROBERT GILLAN,

Name, Extent, and Appearance.

ETYMOLOGY of names is generally matter of conjecture. Hawick may be derived from the Celtic, *ba*, a mansion, and *wic*, the crook or conflux of rivers ; or from the Saxon, *baf*, the same with our *balved*, and *wick*, a common termination for a village, supposed to be formed from the Latin *vica*. To either of these derivations its situation agrees ; as the river Teviot washes the side of it towards the north, and the smaller river, *Sittiridge*, divides it nearly into two equal parts.—The parish is of considerable extent, being about 15 miles long from W. to E. and $4\frac{1}{2}$ broad. The general appearance is hilly : None of the hills, however, are of any remarkable size ; they are mostly green, and afford excellent pasture for sheep.

Soil, Manure, and Rent.—The soils of the parish are various. The haughs, or vallies, are compounded of loam, gravel and sand, in different proportions. On rising grounds between the vallies and hills, there is loam, with here and there a mixture of gravel. On the hills, the soil varies according to situation, being in some places light and dry; in others soft and spongy; and in others wet and stiff. In some farms, there are moss and heath, though in small quantities. The soil of the vallies, and of the rising grounds contiguous to them, though not deep, is far from being unfertile; for, under proper culture, it produces plentiful crops of oats, barley, turnips, potatoes, clover, and rye-grass: and, when hid into grass, in proper condition, affords excellent pasture for small cattle and sheep. The soil of the hills is perfectly adapted to the breeding of sheep.—The quantity of arable land is inconsiderable, compared with that which is suitable for pasture only.—The manure chiefly used is dung, collected in the town, and at the different farms. There is also marl in different parts of the parish, which is used successfully on land in pasture, as well as in tillage. Its effects have not been tried, upon land appropriated to the breeding of sheep; some imagining there would, and others there would not, be danger in using it upon land light and dry.—The valued rent of the parish is 11,591*l.* 11*s.* Scotch; the real rent about 2800*l.* Sterling.

Trees and Sheep.—This parish does not produce any vegetable or trees, but such as are to be found in other parts of Scotland. Upon the banks of rivers and rivulets, and upon the sides of hills, the hazel, birch, hawthorn and grey willow, spring spontaneously, when defended from the sheep; a proof that, at a former period, the country has been more covered with wood than at present. Neither does the parish produce
any

any animals that are uncommon. The animal of the greatest value, and chiefly attended to, is the sheep: By far the greatest part of the parish is occupied in breeding them. The number may be about 8000. They are of the long white faced kind, which bears the short clothing wool, somewhat inferior in size, as well as in fineness of wool, to the sheep of the Cheviot Hills. Having been thought defective in shape, from the lightness of the fore quarter, about 20 years ago an attempt was made to improve it, by means of rams of a breed highly esteemed in England. The experiment was repeated, until it was found, that the quality of the wool was thereby deteriorated. Judicious farmers now study to improve the shape of the breed, by selecting the best lambs of both sexes for breeding, without introducing a foreign mixture; and to enlarge the size and render the wool finer, by increasing the shelter upon their farms, by affording their flocks plenty of food, and by rendering their pasture sweeter and better. For this last purpose, keeping a less stock, and draining of boggy or marshy land, are reckoned of great service, and attended to by good managers. Turnips and broad clover have not been given to sheep, in this parish, except for fattening them; although this practice prevails much in other parts of the county of Roxburgh. But rye-grass is esteemed a good spring food, where the situation of a farm admits of its being raised in abundance. In smearing, a much greater proportion of butter is used than formerly; but the total disuse of tar has never had a good effect.

Cultivation, Climate, Product, &c.—The time of sowing oats is from the beginning of March to the end of April; that of sowing barley, from the beginning of April to the end of May. The practice of sowing barley by the middle of April, upon land that has been thoroughly prepared the preceeding summer,

summer, by fallow or a green crop, begins to gain ground. It is thought, that barley sown thus early, is not so liable to suffer from drought, as when sown in the middle or end of May; that the crop is sooner ready, and the grain larger and better ripened. In favourable seasons, September is the harvest month. But if the weather is bad, harvest is not over till the middle or end of October. This is not altogether to be attributed to climate; but in some measure to a practice that still prevails, of sowing great quantities of oats upon high lands, which nature seems to have intended for pasture only. There is a considerable variety of climate in the parish. In the town of Hawick, and its immediate neighbourhood, the weather is often mild, when it is cold and sharp a few miles distant. In the winter season, snow, on the high parts of the parish, is often deep, while near the town there is none. The provisions produced in the parish, are more than sufficient for the supply of the country part of it, but not equal to the consumption of the town of Hawick. On this account, there is a constant importation from the neighbouring parishes of meal, barley for malt, butcher meat, butter, cheese, poultry, &c.—

The

* The wages generally given to servants are,

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|
| To a plowman and other servants employed in husbandry, with bed, board, &c. per annum, | - | - | - | 1 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| To ditto, without bed and board, | - | - | - | - | 13 | 0 | 0 |
| To a shepherd, on a farm where the master resides, | - | - | - | - | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| To ditto, upon a let farm, | - | - | - | - | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| To a maid, for milking ewes from Whitsunday to Lammass, | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| To a man, hired through the whole corn harvest, with victuals, | - | - | - | - | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| To a woman, ditto, | - | - | - | - | 0 | 13 | 0 |
| To a maid servant, for taking care of cows in the house, per annum, | 3 | 3 | 0 | | | | |
| To a domestic maid servant, ditto, | 3 | 3 | 0 | | | | |
| To a labourer, from Martinmas till Candlemas, per day, | - | - | - | 0 | 0 | 10 | |
| ———— through the remainder of the year, ditto, | - | - | - | 0 | 1 | 0 | |
| ———— in hay and corn harvests, ditto, | - | - | - | 0 | 1 | 2 | |

T 7

The number of ploughs in the country part of the parish, is about 30 at present, though they have not all full employment. The Scotch plough is mostly in use; but some farmers use it with the English mould board. The number of carts is about 60, of which 50 may belong to farmers and carters, residing mostly in the town.

Winnowing Machine.—The winnowing machine, or corn fanner, from the best information, made its first appearance in Hawick. Accounts, well authenticated, state, that *Andrew Rodger*, a farmer on the estate of Cavers, having a mechanical turn, retired from his farm and gave his genius its bent; and, probably, from a description of a machine of that kind, used in Holland, in the year 1737, constructed the first machine so employed in this kingdom. In the year 1740, he sent many of them into the northern parts of Northumberland. The principal farmers there, in the course of that year, purchased and used them; and Mr. John Greigstone alone, then farmer at Wark, got 6 for his own use. The descendants of Andrew Rodger, residing in Hawick, at present supply the whole country around, and continue to send many of them into Northumberland. They sell them from 2 to 3 guineas, and make and dispose of about 60 every year*.

The

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|----------|---|----------|
| To women for reaping, | - | - | - | per day, | - | L. 0 1 0 |
| ————— for hay making, | - | - | - | ditto, | - | 0 0 7 |
| To masons and carpenters in winter, | - | - | - | ditto, | - | 0 1 3 |
| ————— in summer, | - | - | - | ditto, | - | 0 1 6 |

* Mr. Marshall, in his *Rural Economy of Yorkshire*, vol. I. page 283, says, about the year 1755, “my father made a *machine fan*, from a model shewn him, with some improvements. This was the first, that was made in the district, and perhaps the first that was made in England.” From the above account, it appears, that, long before the period mentioned by Mr. Marshall, they were in use in the northern parts of Northumberland. The facts can be attested by ANTHONY GREIGSTONE, Esq. of Lowlin, in the county of Durham.

The Town.—Hawick is a burgh of barony, independent of the lord of erection; and has existed free from a very early period. But the rights and documents of the burgh being lost and destroyed, during the inroads of the English plunderers, a charter was granted, in the year 1545, by James Douglas of Drumlanark*, confirming to them such rights and lands as they formerly held. This charter is confirmed by another, granted by Queen Mary in May 1545.—In consequence of these charters, the burghesses elect their own magistrates annually. There is a standing council; in conjunction with which, the magistrates manage the town's affairs. The whole consists of 31; viz. 2 bailies, 15 of a standing council, who continue for life, if not legally disqualified, and 2 called quarter masters, from each of the incorporations. The incorporations are 7, viz. weavers, tailors, hammermen, skippers, fischers, shoemakers, and baxters. A treasurer and surveyor of weights, measures and markets, are annually chosen by the council. The clerk is elected by the burghesses at large, and generally continues in office during life. The magistrates receive resignations and grant infeftments in the town. The sasines are recorded in the general or particular register for sasines, as they have not, like royal burghs, a record for the town's sasines. They expedite services, cognosce heirs, and pronounce decreets in civil causes, to any extent on which hornings and captions pass. Hawick possesses all the privileges of a royal burgh, except that of sending a representative to Parliament, for which it need

* In this charter, one article may be noticed. One James Blair was taxed with "one penny of the kingdom of Scotland, upon the ground of his half *parsonage*, for finding and furnishing one lamp, or pot, of burning oil, before the altar of the parish church of Hawick, in time of high Mass and vesper prayers, all holy days of the year, in honour of our Saviour Jesus Christ, and praying for the souls of the barons of Hawick, the founders of the lamp, and their successors."

need not repine; as it is thereby freed from many temptations to idleness and dissipation, to which the inhabitants of royal burghs, by their politics, are often subjected.

Revenue, Market, &c.—The common, belonging to the town, was formerly very extensive; but some of the surrounding heritors, claiming a prescriptive right of pasturage, 6 parts of 20 were allotted to them. The town's share now amounts to about 850 acres, besides some places in its immediate neighbourhood, which fell not under the division. Previous to this division, the cattle belonging to the burghesses pastured over the whole common; and this town had no revenue, except what arose from the dues, or entry-money of burghesses, which was inconsiderable. Since the division, the whole common is inclosed, and about 250 acres let in one farm, besides other detached pieces, with several areas feued for building. The revenue, arising from these, and what is exacted for pasturing the burghesses cattle, now amount to 1301; and still common sufficient remains to pasture these cattle. No part of the town's revenue is spent in eating and drinking, except a trifle at the King's birth-day, and the election of the magistrates. The magistrates and council lately erected a neat council house, brought water into the town in leaden pipes, and paved the streets anew. The Duke of Buccleugh, who draws the customs of the town, contributed 50l. towards building the council house, and paid half of the expence of paving the streets. There is a weekly market and 4 fairs, besides a tryft, established, within these few years, for black cattle, &c. in October, between Falkirk tryft and Newcastle fair, which promises to succeed.

Manufactures.—Notwithstanding the disadvantages of distance from fuel, and an extensive land carriage, manufactures
are

are carried on here with considerable spirit and success. Several branches are now established ; but the most considerable are carpets, inkle, cloth, and stockings. The *carpet manufacture* was established in the year 1752, and has, since that time, been under the management of Mr. WILLIAM ROBERTSON, now a partner. For some years, it was aided, by a bounty of 1s. per stone on all the wool manufactured, from the board of Trustees for improvements in Scotland. The present proprietors, since the year 1780, besides Scotch carpets, have manufactured several other articles in the woollen line ; such as serges for carpet covers, plain cloths for table covers, rugs, collar checks, with other articles used by sadlers. The quantity of wool manufactured last year, was about 220 packs* of laid and white wools. Women are employed to spin these in their own houses, receiving from the storehouse one stone at a time. The number of people, employed in the different branches of this manufacture, last year, seems to have been 362.—The *inkle manufacture* was begun in the year 1783. The only branch yet attempted is common linen tapes and twists. In these two articles, there are annually consumed 20 tons of linen yarn ; of which one half is spun at home, and, when the price of flax is moderate, the whole of it. The number of people employed in spinning the flax cannot be ascertained, a considerable quantity being sent to distant villages, at a time, to a person appointed to give it out in small quantities. The other people employed may amount to 65. This manufacture, which is yet in its infancy, was likewise aided for a few years, by the Board of Trustees for Improvements and Manufactures in Scotland.—The *stocking manufacture* was established by Mr. JOHN NIXON, in the year 1780. For 4 years he was employed chiefly in making hose, for people who furnished their

* A pack is 12 stones ; 24lb. of white, and 25½lb. of laid wool, to the stone.

their own materials, called *custom work*. Since 1785, he has manufactured, on his own account, different articles in the hosiery line, to a considerable extent. From his books, he appears to have manufactured the following quantity of hose :

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|-------------|
| Coloured and white lamb's wool hose, | - | - | 3505 pairs. |
| Cotton, thread, and worsted hose, | - | - | 594 do. |

4099

=====

The number of people employed, are,

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---|---|-----------|
| Frame work knitters, | - | - | - | 13 men. |
| Spinners, | - | - | - | 42 women. |
| Beamers, doublers, and twiners, | - | - | - | 9 |
| A foreman, | - | - | - | 1 |

65

The wool is given out to women, in small quantities, who spin it in their own houses*.—The *cloth manufacture* was begun in September 1787. The first year, this manufacture consumed only 10 packs of wool ; last year, upwards of 40 were manufactured. The cloth, which is narrow, is sold from 2s. to 5s. per yard, to merchants in different sea port towns in the north of Scotland. The number of persons employed, is,

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| Weavers, | - | - | - | - | - | 5 |
| Spinners, occasionally employed, | - | - | - | - | - | 14 |
| Dyers, | - | - | - | - | - | 4 |
| Carders, | - | - | - | - | - | 6 |
| Persons employed in machinery in the shop, | - | - | - | - | - | 4 |

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VOL. VIII.

3 X

Nursery

* The manufacture of stockings was originally begun by Baillie John Hardie, in the year 1791. He employed 4 looms; which, at an average, produced annually about 2,400 pairs, mostly of the coarser kind. He seems to have been the first, that introduced this business into this country; and, by persons taught in his shop, it has been planted in Wooler, Kelso, Jedburgh, Langholm, Melrose, and Selkirk. From family distress he abandoned it, after carrying it on for 20 years, when it was taken up by Mr. Nixon.

Nursery and Commerce.—In this parish there is a considerable nursery carried on by the Messrs. Dicksons. This nursery was first established at Hassendean Burn, in a neighbouring parish, in the year 1729. The ground there, fit for the purpose, being all occupied, in 1766 they feued land in Hawick, amounting to 36 acres, to extend their business. These two nurseries contain all kinds of fruit and forest trees, flower plants, and roots, and flowering shrubs, that are naturalized to this country; besides a great collection of exotic plants. The demand for these articles of nursery is considerable; for, besides supplying all the adjoining country, and several other parts of Scotland, they are sent to many places of Northumberland, Cumberland, Westmoreland, North Wales, Lancashire, Cheshire, Yorkshire, &c. At some seasons, there are 50 people employed in the nursery grounds; but, at an average, 30 are employed the whole season.—Some people here make it their employment, to buy up eggs in the neighbouring counties, and carry them to Berwick, taking some weeks to the amount of 150l., and, at an average, of 50l. per week through the year. Others are entirely occupied in collecting sheep skins, both white and tarred, in Dumfries-shire, Tweeddale and Selkirkshire. Part of them are manufactured in Hawick, and the rest sold in quantities to the skinners in Kelso and Galashiels. The persons, who collect the skins, through the sheep countries, likewise buy up coarse linen yarn; which, together with what is made in Hawick and its neighbourhood, (not used in our manufactures), is sent to Kendal, Glasgow, Stirling, Leith and Aberdeen. One person gets about 200 packs of wool spun into yarn, which he sells at these markets.

Church and Poor.—The Duke of Buccleugh is patron of the parish. The living consists of 91l. 13s. 4½d., 16 bolls meal, 20 bolls barley, the vicarage tythes of a small part of the

the parish, a manse and garden, and a glebe of 15 English acres. Besides the Established Church, there are two meeting-houses; a Burgher and an Antiburgher. The distance of many places, in this and the adjacent parish of Cavers, from the parish churches, induced the inhabitants there to erect a chapel of ease. In this place, under the direction of the ministers of Hawick and Cavers, a chaplain performs divine service; partly paid by the Duke of Buccleugh, and partly by the ministers and the people; but the assistant not being in orders, little burden is thereby taken from the ministers. The number of poor, at present receiving weekly assistance, is 110: for their support, the heritors &c. assess themselves to the amount of 370*l.* per annum*.

Population.—The number of souls in this parish, from an accurate survey, are,

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------|------|
| In the town of Hawick, | 2330 | Married persons, | - - - | 970 |
| In the country, | - - - 608 | Persons under 10 years, | - - - | 600 |
| Males, | - 1378 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 2928 | between 10 and 20 | - - - | 618 |
| Females, | - 1550 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 20 and 30, | - - - | 1214 |
| The population, in 1755, was, | [2713 | 30 and 70, | - - - | 423 |
| | | 70 and 100, | - - - | 73 |
| Increase, | - 215 | | | |
| | | Total, | - - - | 2928 |

There is no exact register kept of marriages, baptisms, or burials.

3 X 2

Inundation.

* Besides this provision for the poor, a number have associated, under the title of *The Friendly Society*, to support themselves in the time of sickness, or under the infirmities of old age. The members pay a trifle at their admission, and 4*s.* annually; and for this, when reduced by sickness or age, they receive 3*s.* per week; at the death of a member, his wife receives 1*l.* 10*s.*, and a member, at the death of his wife, 1*l.*, to defray the funeral expences. Besides those who are the immediate objects of this association, the society consists of many of the respectable inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood.

Inundation.—The town of Hawick, though not subject to inundations, has every reason to be afraid of them. It stands at the conflux of the rivers Slitridge and Teviot, which, after great rains, or the dissolving of the snows on the adjacent hills, rise several feet upon the houses immediately situated on their banks. A remarkable one happened in August 1767. Slitridge then rose to an astonishing height, occasioned by a cloud bursting at its source. It began to rise at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and continued to increase till past 6, when it was 22 feet above its usual level. It marked its progress with destruction. Part of the surface of the hill, where the cloud fell, floated into the river. Corn and cattle, with every thing on its banks, were born away by the torrent. In Hawick, its devastations were great; 15 dwelling-houses, and a corn mill, were carried off, and the rock swept so clean, that not a bit of rubbish was left to tell where they stood. At the height of the flood, a maid servant, belonging to a merchant, recollecting that in the house, now surrounded with water, her master had 300*l.* in gold, boldly ventured in, and got hold of the bag with the money; In returning, however, she was carried down by the stream, but was cast ashore on a green below the town, herself and the money both safe. In this alarming event two lives were lost; both indeed through rashness and inattention.

Eminent Men.—Hawick, as far as the present incumbent can learn, has given birth to few men of considerable eminence in literature, in the field, or in rank. Some, however, who have resided in it, have shone in their particular stations. Amongst these, we must first rank GAVIN DOUGLAS*, Bishop of

* GAVIN DOUGLAS, on his first entering the church, was installed rector of Hawick, in the year 1496. Afterwards, he was appointed provost of the collegiate

of Dunkeld, author of several poems, and the admired translator of Virgil's *Æneid*. Here too should be mentioned, Mr. ALEXANDER ORROCK, the first minister of Hawick after the Revolution. He appears to have been a man rigid in discipline, and of extensive charity. As a proof of the former, there is told an extraordinary instance. The magistrates, having offended against decency and propriety, were cited before him, and were not allowed to act in office, nor released from the thunders of the church, until they had, on their uncovered knees, asked pardon of God and the kirk-session. This is a degree of ecclesiastical severity now happily unknown. Eminent proofs of his charity, however, still remain. He bequeathed, for the poor of Hawick, 116 merks Scotch; and for the schoolmaster 9,000 merks: He gave several pieces of plate for the use of the church; and to the minister he gave his whole library, which remains a monument of ancient theological literature.

Antiquities.—There are remains of camps in this parish; but at what period they were formed, or by whom, the present incumbent has never been able to discover. There is a place called *Catrail**, by some considered the remains of a Roman

legiate church of St. Giles, in Edinburgh, abbot of the convent of Aberbrothick, and bishop of Dunkeld. He was nominated to the archbishopric of St. Andrews, but his appointment never took effect. To avoid the persecutions raised against his family, in the year 1513, he retired into England, and put himself under the protection of Henry VIII., who kindly received him, and granted him a pension. He died of the plague in London, and was buried in the Savoy church, in the year 1521.

* Whitaker, in his History of Manchester, supposes the Catrail to have been a barricade thrown up by the ancient Britons. He says, "it runs in a N. E. direction from Carnaby on the Elk, to Gallow Water, beyond Selkirk, lined all the way on the W. with forts; and even continues itself, by an additional chain
" of

Roman rampart ; by others, the vestiges of a fortification by the Saxons, or the ancient Britons. A little above the town, towards the west, is an earthen mound, of a conical figure, called the *Mote*. Some suppose this a *tumulus* ; others, a place raised for the principal inhabitants of the town to meet, for the distribution of justice. This last, its name and tradition confirm. At an early period, this was common throughout Scotland. When the chiefs and the leading people in a district met, to promulgate laws for the government of their dependants, it was generally on a hill of some eminence ; and many places still retain the appellation, as *North Berwick Law*, in East Lothian ; *Largo Law*, in Fifeshire ; and *Ruber's Law*, in this neighbourhood.

Character of the People.—Although individuals in this parish, as in other places of the same extent, are given to the vices usual in these times, yet the inhabitants, in general, are honest, sober, and industrious. Their industry is not the violent exertion of a moment ; but steady, calm, and persevering : And were it not for many disadvantages and difficulties, they have to encounter, the spirit of the inhabitants of Hawick would raise it to the first station of manufacture, in the south of Scotland.

“ of castles, along the Gallow, to the north. It was plainly designed as a barrier against any enemy, that lay to the S. and E. of it.” Its remains in the parish of Cavers, and on the Gallow, are still conspicuous ; but little of it is observable in this parish.

NUMBER XXXIII.

PARISH OF CLATT.

(County and Synod of Aberdeen—Presbytery of Alford.)

By the Rev. Mr. ROBERT FINDLAY.

Name, Situation, Erection and Climate.

THE name of this parish, seems to be taken from the village of Clatt, where the church stands, and which is placed almost in the centre of the parish; infomuch, that from the church-yard, one has a prospect of the whole; and none of the principal places in it are out of view, nor above the distance of a mile, excepting a corner that lies N. W.—This parish is situated in the Western extremity of that ancient division or district of Aberdeenshire, called *Garioch*—It is a considerable time since it was disjoined from the presbytery of Garioch, and annexed to that of Alford. The situation being naturally high, and surrounded with hills, the *climate* is cold, being visited with frequent storms of wind and rain from the E. and with snow from the N. and N. E; and it has been known, within the memory of the writer himself, that the winter snow has remained upon the ground, till the second week of April, and that

that the months of September, October and November, have proved rainy throughout. The frost mists which sometimes begin the latter end of July, and are frequent in August and September, are very injurious to late sown barley, and to pease *.

Soil, Cultivation, &c.—The soil is various; light and sandy towards the hill sides; the infield generally a loam, easily cultivated, being neither wet nor too dry. Were the climate as favourable as the soil, the ground would produce any sort of crop common in Scotland; but the frequent changes of the weather, and the frosts, prove very unfavourable to green crops; excepting turnips and potatoes, which thrive well, when the ground is duly prepared. It must be acknowledged, that improvements in agriculture and husbandry are, here, only in their infancy. Most of the greater farmers, however, begin to have a few acres in turnips and sown grass; but very little in fallow, and no wheat, which would be but an uncertain crop, by reason of the lateness of the seasons, the spring and autumnal frosts, and subsequent rains: Neither are the farmers, at present, in a condition to enter into regular rotations; as, besides other reasons, their possessions are not of the proper size, and only upon short leases, which are a certain bar to all improvements.—Some stone inclosures have been made of late; and several plantations of wood have been begun upon the Knockspock estate. The first carts were introduced only in 1766, by the minister and another residenter. They
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* This occasioned the loss of the crop in 1782, by which calamity this country was much reduced; and had it not been for the Government bounty of meal, and the seasonable supplies of white pease, destined for the American War, famine must have unavoidably ensued: The peace with America was, therefore, the providential means of saving several shires in North Britain from depopulation and ruin.

are now become general all over the parish; only the horses are still of too small size to render carts as useful as they might be. In good seasons, the parish has been found to produce more grain than supports the inhabitants; but since 1782, the crops have often proved short; and had it not been for the money received, by the sale of black cattle to the south country dealers, the tenants could not have regularly paid their rents.—A branch of the stocking manufacture, from Aberdeen, employs several of the women servants; but it is too inconsiderable to be much depended upon.—Although some of the farmers are getting into a better form of ploughs and farming utensils, yet the old methods are still followed by several. Dung, mixed into a sort of compost with common earth, or seal from pasture ground, is still the common manure, although the ground agrees perfectly well with lime, which is to be had, at the distance of 10 computed miles, by an exceeding bad road; and very little attention is paid towards making it better. There are only 3 or 4 tenants, who have attempted fallowing or watering; though such trials, as have been made, have answered well. In particular, a summer fallow of *exhausted outfield land*, with the addition of a little lime, has produced excellent crops of barley and grass, which before afforded neither. The fact is, little can, or will be done, in the improving line, till the heritors or landlords take the lead, and encourage their tenants, either by premiums, or long leases; by abolishing servitudes, and mill multures*, which

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* In some parts of this parish, the mill multure is computed to be 1-13th of the whole product of the ground; and, in a neighbouring parish, it is said to be the 11th part; besides the expence of upholding the mill-house and machinery. Whereas a liberal and sensible heritor, who wishes the improvement of his estate, and the prosperity of his tenants, will see the propriety and necessity of abolishing such unreasonable exactions, and of laying no other restrictions upon the manufacturing of grain, than barely that of upholding the mill, and giving wages for a miller to work it.

are all great and invincible obstacles to improvements in husbandry.

Springs and Minerals.—There are no rivers of any note. A rivulet takes its rise in this parish; which passing downward, through the parishes of Lesly, Premnay, &c. takes the name of *Gadie*, and afterwards becomes a branch of the river *Urie*, which falls into the *Don* at *Inverury*.—There are many springs of water, impregnated with minerals, as sulphur, &c.; but none frequented for medicinal purposes.—Almost every possession has plenty of out-lying stones for building inclosures. Quarries may be found, in many places, of excellent granite, very fit for building, and easy to be wrought. In one place, near the site of the mansion-house of *Knockel-pock*, (in the front of *Craig-Hill*), there are veins of variegated marble, which promise some sort of quarry of that kind. A considerable time ago, about the year 1754, it was dug a little, and some of the largest pieces, that could be got, were collected, and sent up to Judge *GORDON* of *St. Christophers*, then proprietor of the estate, who at that time resided at *Moor-Place*, near *London*: But, whatever opinion was formed about them, no further notice has been taken of the place since.

Population.—The population of this parish has decreased considerably within these 40 years; chiefly owing to some families, who had small farms, removing to the manufacturing towns, where they find a more easy and comfortable way of living.

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|-----|-----------|-----|
| The return to Dr. Webster in 1755, was | - | - | - | - | - | 559 |
| At WhitSunday 1792, when the incumbent completed his last | | | | | | |
| course of visiting and catechising, the number was, | | | | | | |
| Of Males, | - | - | - | 213 | | |
| — Females, | - | - | - | 212 | | |
| | | | | | Total, | 425 |
| | | | | | Decrease, | 134 |

Of these, the number of communicants is about - - - - 220
The number of inhabited houses, and families, is - - - - 89

The following Abstract shews the state of the Births,
Marriages, &c. for the last Ten Years :

| Years. | Baptisms. | Marring | Burials. |
|--------|-----------|---------|----------|
| 1783 * | 12 | 4 | |
| 1784 | 10 | 2 | 11 |
| 1785 | 14 | 2 | 13 |
| 1786 | 10 | 2 | 19 |
| 1787 | 10 | 1 | 17 |
| 1788 | 14 | 5 | 21 |
| 1789 | 6 | 2 | 12 |
| 1790 | 8 | 7 | 7 |
| 1791 | 9 | 1 | 10 |
| 1792 | 8 | 5 | 16 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 101 | 31 | 126 † |

Occupations.—Almost all the inhabitants occupy farms, of greater or less extent, from 5l. to 40l. Sterling a year. There are even some as low as 1l. 10s. ; and a few have only a house, with the liberty of fuel, but no ground. The artificers, or trades people, such as wrights, tailors, smiths, &c. are merely sufficient to supply the inhabitants with their respective sorts of work : Some are paid by the day, or piece ; others have what is called *custom work*, i. e. a stipulated quantity of grain, with their crofts plowed, and fuel brought in. All have as much land as enables them to keep a cow or two, and a yard, or garden.

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Village

* There is no register of burials for this year.

† The above is the small number buried in this church-yard, since 1783 ; but of these, several are brought from other parishes, it being customary here, (as well as elsewhere) for the posterity of former residents, though removed from the parish, to bring back their dead to what they call their own burial place. Only a few of the residents have buried elsewhere.

Village, Markets, &c.—It appears, from various deeds, that the town and village of Clatt was erected into a burgh of barony, with power to hold weekly and annual markets §. Accordingly, the late Colonel HARRY GORDON of Knockespock, heritable proprietor of the said burgh of barony, and markets thereto belonging, being determined to give all proper encouragement to the said weekly markets and fairs, made public intimation, in the Edinburgh and Aberdeen newspapers, of his intention to improve the burgh, and revive and improve the markets; and in the short intervals, in which he was permitted to visit his estate here, he began to build better farm houses; to form plans for improving and inclosing the grounds; of raising flax, and introducing the linen manufacture, &c. But, being soon after called abroad, on government service in the West Indies, about the year 1784, his public spirited designs were interrupted, and have not been resumed since, as the Colonel died about three years afterwards. By this fatal event, Government lost an excellent officer, and experienced engineer; and his tenants a good master, who wished to see them thriving under him; and one who had the improvement of his native country much at heart.

Roads and Proposed Improvements.—This parish is intersected by 2 highways; the south road from Edinburgh, leading

§ By letters of gift and donation, from King James IV. of Scotland, dated 16th June 1501, it was "erected into a free burgh of barony, with all the rights and privileges thereof; with power to the proprietor at that time, and in all time thereafter, to constitute and appoint bailies, and other officers, necessary for guiding, governing, and ruling the said burgh: And to have, hold, and keep therein a cross and market, upon Tuesday every week; and public fairs and markets, every year, for the space of eight days; with the liberties, profits, duties and commodities thereof, in terms of the foresaid grant and donation: Upon which letters of publication have been issued at different times, by warrant of the Lords of Council and Session in Scotland."

ing north towards Huntly, Elgin, &c.; and the public road, from the high country, down through Glenlivet, Cabrach, Rhynie, &c. towards Aberdeen; which last passes within a few paces of the village of Clatt. The great south road, leading directly north from the *Cairnie Mount*, passes through the town itself, and the whole breadth of the parish. It was made by the military about 25 years ago, and is kept, here, in tolerable repair. This road is shorter by many miles, than that leading by Aberdeen. A proper inn erected in the village of Clatt, (as was intended by the late Colonel Gordon), would render this a most convenient stage for travellers, either to the south or to the north; and the road being once frequented, would contribute quickly to the improvement of the village. A spirited and enterprising heritor, by availing himself of these, and some other local advantages, and by circulating a little money to begin adventurers in the mercantile and manufacturing lines, might, through time, be repaid with large increase; and, at the same time, give employment, and a decent livelihood, to many, who, for want of such encouragement, drudge on through life, burdened with a family, upon a few ridges of land, which can hardly afford them either subsistence, or opportunity of exertion. The great and popular objections, against attempts of this sort, are, the distance from the county town, or any proper sea port and harbour; scarcity of fuel; danger of engrossing the working servants, and withdrawing the hands necessary for agriculture, &c. But all these, in the present case, might be obviated by a prudent economy; particularly, by introducing a better breed and size of horses for the carts; keeping the roads in due repair, by a proper application of the statute work; and giving good encouragement to dealers and merchants to settle in the village, and to frequent the fairs and markets. As to want of fuel, that complaint would soon cease, if the unreasonable *coasting duty*

duty upon coals were taken off, or commuted. And as for want of hands for agriculture, the obvious remedy is, to proportion the farms to a proper size, and to work them, either with two-horse ploughs, or with oxen in harness; either of which would perform double the quantity of work, in the same time, and to much better purpose.

Heritors and Rent.—There are only two heritors, Knockes-pock and Towie, neither of whom reside. The estate of Knockes-pock comprehends about three fourths of the parish. Of late, that family have resided in the parish a considerable part of the year, and their servants are constantly here. The valued rent of this parish, as stated in the cels books, is 1275l. 4s. 4d. Scotch. The gross rent may be estimated about 600l. Sterling. The tenants and possessors of the ground pay the cels, minister's stipend, and schoolmaster's salary.

Church, &c.—The fabric of the church had a thorough repair in 1779; and, with regular seats, would be a decent place of worship; but the old clumsy seats being still retained, disfigures the look of it, and affords less convenient accommodation for the hearers*. The manse was built about 1725. Both manse and offices have undergone several partial repairs, and at present stand greatly in need of more. The stipend is 500 merks Scotch, in money, with 16l. Scotch for communion elements; 42 bolls victual of meal and bear; some services of plowing, and leading turf for fuel; a garden, and a glebe, not fully

* The east end of the church appears to have been a Popish place of worship of some note, and of very old date. When the seats were removed at last reparation, there appeared, on the back wall, and at the end, a neat tablet of freestone, about 3 feet square, with side columns and a cornice. In the middle, in profile, are effigies of our Saviour on the cross; with the initials of the Scripture

fully 3 acres. It is much the same as it was 150 years ago, as appears by a decreet of locality, dated June 1650, and is now become very inadequate to the present rate and mode of living, when the value of money is so much diminished, and the price of necessaries so much raised and taxed. In 1760, when the present incumbent settled, he had his first man-servant at 2l. 6s. 8d. Sterling, wages for the year; at present, he cannot have one, for the same office, under six guineas. It is the same with respect to provisions, furniture, apparel, &c. Almost every article is tripled in value.

School.—There is a parochial school, and qualified teacher, whose salary is 6 bolls of meal, collected in small quantities from the inhabitants; besides 20l. Scotch, as session clerk, with the ordinary perquisites for baptisms and marriages; and which altogether, with scholars fees, will not exceed 11l. Sterling a year. As this is much about the common rate of schoolmaster's livings through great part of this country, it certainly calls for the interference of the Legislature, to make some more competent and decent provision for such an useful class of men, upon whom the morals and prosperity of Society, as well as of individuals, so greatly depends.

Poor.

ture inscription on the top. The piece was ornamented with painting, in colours of vermillion, azure, and gold leaf, very bright and fresh. It was placed about 5 feet high above the altar, and probably stood above the spot where the altar was placed. Within the opposite corner, at the front wall, was an apartment, or closet, of a cubical form, which seems to be the sacristy where the host, money and books were kept. Also, within the inner sconcing of the east door, another such closet, but smaller, probably for holding a vessel with consecrated water, for sprinkling the people as they entered to worship. At taking down the old walls, the officious zeal of the workmen broke and defaced the tablet, before it could be rescued from their hands.

Poor.—There are no begging poor that belong to this parish; although, lying along so many highways, the place is exceedingly pestered with beggars and vagrants, from the Highlands and more northern districts; as well as with *foriners* and supplicants from the south, many of whom are great impostors. It is much to be wished, that some regulations were set on foot for rendering such persons better members of society; or at least restraining them from becoming such burdens on the public, and intercepting, and often extorting, by threats and force, what might be very properly bestowed upon real objects of charity. There are several indigent and infirm persons belonging to the parish, who receive supplies occasionally, as well as at three stated terms, Whitsunday, Martinmas, and when the sacrament is dispensed. The weekly collections in the church, and at the sacraments, and the dues of the mort-cloth, are the only poor's funds here. But they cannot be expected to be very considerable in a small parish, where there are no residing heritors, nor gentry who attend public worship; or, so far as the incumbent knows, bestow any thing for the support of the parochial poor. Such poor as live in and about the more populous villages, are supplied, by their beneficent neighbours, with some little necessities, which they could not otherwise procure; such as milk, whey, turnips, potatoes, fuel, &c. When it is known, that any old or infirm person is in want, it is customary for the young lads of that corner, to go out in an evening through the parish, and to ask meal, or a little money, which the people very cheerfully give; and it proves a most seasonable supply to several, who would be in hazard of suffering want, rather than seem to be importunate, or burdensome.

Character.—All the residing inhabitants are of the Established Church, excepting one Roman Catholic, whose wife
and

and family are Presbyterians. They all attend the catechisings. The people, in general, are sober, intelligent, and industrious; charitable, according to their circumstances, and regular in attending upon the ordinances of religion; though it is to be regretted, that, in this last respect, the *gentry* are far from being exemplary, to those whom they deem much their inferiors. It is so far fortunate, however, that the *vulgar*, as they are called, do not imitate *their betters*, otherwise we should have very thin churches. There is not perhaps so much of the outward shew of religion among the people, as in some other districts, especially where the Secession has obtained; but, among the ordinary ranks, there is much decency, and, it is to be hoped, not a little real devotion. One thing, however, is still matter of just complaint, through several counties in this northern division of the island; too great laxness and latitude, in the manner of observing the Sabbath day; and which, instead of being devoted to religious exercises, is often spent in travelling on journeys; giving and receiving visits; sending servants abroad, on errands and messages; and so abstracting them altogether from the stated returns of public and social worship, which, to many, is almost the only means of instruction they can enjoy. It is certainly matter of regret, that in a civilized age and country, not to say a Christian land, and where we justly boast of so many other improvements, so much refinement in politeness, dress, diversions, &c. there should be so much coldness, not to say neglect and contempt, with regard to piety and the public ordinances of religion; and so little countenance shewn them, by those who have it so greatly in their power, and who surely ought, to be exemplary to others, in this first and fundamental duty of every rational being.

NUMBER XXXIV.

PARISH OF DRYMEN.

(County of Stirling—Presbytery of Dumbarton—Synod of Glasgow and Ayr.)

By the Rev. Mr. DUNCAN MACFARLAN,
Minister of that Parish.

Origin of the Name.

THE name, *Drumen*, or, as it is more commonly written, *Drymen*, is obviously derived from the Celtic word, *Drum*, corresponding to the Latin *Dorsum*, a ridge or eminence. It is peculiarly descriptive of the appearance of considerable part of the parish, which is frequently intersected by deep ravines, or water courses, with rising grounds between them. The same word is also to be met with, as a component part in the names of many places, as *Drumquhassle*, *Drumdaish*, *Drumliagart*, &c. The etymology of these, and almost all the other names in the parish, is purely Celtic.

Extent.

Extent.—It is extremely difficult to give an accurate idea of the situation of this parish, as it is of great extent, and its outlines are exceedingly irregular. The utmost length of the inhabited part is about 15 miles; but the moors extend considerably farther. The greatest breadth is about 9 miles.

Surface, Rivers and Fish.—In some places, the country is rugged and mountainous; in others, flat and level; but, for the most part, it is an irregular slope, between the high moors and the rivers, cut up by a great number of small, but rapid streams. The principal rivers, are, the Duchray, the Forth, and the Enrick. The Duchray is one of the most considerable branches of the Forth, and divides this parish, for some miles, from that of Aberfoil. Near the church of Aberfoil, it joins another considerable stream; and the united river is then known by the name of Forth. Previous to their confluence, the parish of Drymen leaves them at a considerable distance; but afterwards joins the Forth, near Gartmore, about 5 miles to the S. E., where the winding course of that river, for some miles, divides it from that of Port. The Enrick takes its rise in the hills of Dundaff, about 15 miles from Drymen, to the eastward. It separates this parish from that of Killearn, and afterwards runs through it for about 2 miles. It then forms the boundary between this and the neighbouring parish of Kilmaronock; and, about 4 miles farther on, discharges itself into Lochlomond. These rivers abound in trouts, par, perch, pike, eels and flounders, with some salmon.

Soil.—In such an extent, there must necessarily be a great diversity of soil. The banks of the Forth are, in general, covered with a deep moss; but, where that is removed, the industry of the farmer is rewarded, by a very rich clay, pro-

ducing large crops of grain. The lands near Enrick are, in general, light, dry, and gravelly, a soil by no means unfavourable in a moist climate. By far the most common soil in the parish is poor, wet, and tilly, extremely improper for cultivation.

Climate, Fuel, Cultivation, Produce, &c.—The progress of agriculture here has been much retarded, by a variety of unfavourable circumstances, the chief of which are the climate and local situation. The weather, as might be expected in the vicinity of high mountains, and at no great distance from the west coast, is in general very wet; which renders the seed time and harvest exceedingly precarious. But the principal disadvantage is the distance from markets and manure. The nearest market town is Dumbarton, about 21 miles from any part of this parish; and next to it Glasgow, which is at least 18.—There is some limestone to be had in the neighbourhood, but of an indifferent quality. It is but little used, as the country affords no proper fuel for burning it. The farmers, in general, bring their lime from Kilpatrick, at the distance of 12 or 13 miles. Coals, which of late have been pretty much used, are brought from the same place. Peats and turfs are still, however, the most common fuel; but as in most parts of the parish, they are brought from a distance of several miles, and as they require an uncommon degree of attention in cutting and drying, they are nearly as expensive as coals.—The people, in general, have no idea of resting their land; but plow, without intermission, for many successive years, to the great detriment of their farms. The common crops are oats and barley. The barley is chiefly sold to distillers; and the average price is from 16s. to 18s. per boll. Oat meal sells at from 14s. to 16s. per boll.

Village,

Village, &c.—There is only 1 village in the parish, which lies near the church. The inhabitants are mostly tradesmen and day labourers, who depend for employment upon the neighbouring country, excepting a few weavers, who work for the manufacturers of Glasgow. There are Dissenters of various denominations; but none of them have a place of worship within the bounds of the parish. A considerable number speak the Gaelic language; and there are 3 or 4 who do not understand English.

Population.—Since the year 1756, the population of this parish has greatly decreased. This decrease is partly owing to the prevalence of large farms. In several parts of the parish, 1 family now occupies what was formerly in the hands of 7 or 8. Another cause of the diminution is to be found in the progress of manufactures. Though none of these have as yet been established in this parish, they are carried on, at no great distance, to a very considerable extent. The bleachfields and printfields upon the river Leven, near Dumbarton, are perhaps the most extensive in Scotland: and some large cotton mills have been lately erected in the neighbouring parish of Balfron. These give employment to a great number of hands, at wages so high *, that the farmers find it almost impossible to procure servants at any expence.

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* About 20 years ago, the wages of a man servant were about 4l. a year; they are now about 10l., and frequently a good deal higher. The wages of female servants have increased in an equal proportion. At that period, day labourers received 8d. or 10d. a day. They can seldom be got now under 1s. 6d. As the prices of grain, and the other productions of the country, have risen very little, the natural consequence is, that all the lands are thrown into pasture, in which state they require fewer hands, and can be managed at less expence.

STATISTICAL TABLE of the Parish of DRYMEN.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|-----------|------|
| Population as returned to Dr. Webster, in 1755, | - | - | - | - | 2789 |
| Ditto, in April 1792, | - | - | - | - | 1607 |
| | | | | Decrease, | 1182 |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------|--------------------|---|---|----|
| Number of families in the vil- | | Number of weavers, | - | - | 69 |
| lage, - - - | 40 | tailors, | - | - | 6 |
| inhabitants in ditto, | 215 | shoemakers, | - | - | 15 |
| residing heritors, | 20 | wrights, | - | - | 16 |
| non-resident ditto, | 20 | inn-keepers, | - | - | 3 |
| clergymen, - | 1 | ale-sellers, | - | - | 6 |
| dissenters, about - | 400 | corn mills, | - | - | 6 |
| members of the estab- | | flax ditto, | - | - | 3 |
| lished church, - | 1207 | | | | |

Annual Average of Births and Marriages* in the Parish of Drymen.

| | | Births. | Mar. |
|---|---|---------|------|
| From 1st January 1743, to 1st January 1753, | 7 | 46 | 15 |
| From ditto 1753, to ditto 1763, | - | 49 | 16 |
| From ditto 1763, to ditto 1773, | - | 52 | 12 |
| From ditto 1773, to ditto 1783, | - | 30 | 12 |
| From ditto 1783, to ditto 1792, | - | 32 | 10 |

Heritors

* The above are carefully extracted from the parochial records; but as they appear to have been kept with very little attention, during a considerable part of the period, their accuracy cannot be positively depended upon. Till very lately, no register of deaths was kept.

Heritors and Rent.—There are 40 heritors in the parish, of whom about one half reside. The Duke of Montrose, and Mr. Graham of Gartmore, are the principal proprietors. The valued rent in the cess books is 506*l.* 10*s.* Scotch.

Church.—The church is situated near the S. W. extremity of the parish, about half a mile from the river Enrick. It was built about 20 years ago, and is a very commodious and substantial edifice. There are two other places of worship in the parish, each about 6 miles distant, where the clergyman officiates twice a year. The present incumbent was settled in February 1792.

Poor.—There are 38 poor upon the roll at present, many of whom are altogether incapable of doing any thing for their own support. The public funds are entirely inadequate to their maintenance, seldom exceeding 20*l.* per annum. As no assessment for their relief has been laid upon the heritors, they must depend, in a great measure, upon private benefactions; and, in this respect, the truly necessitous are much injured by the great number of vagrant beggars, who, through some egregious defect in our police, are permitted to infest the country, without any restraint or interruption.

Diseases and Longevity.—The climate, though moist, is by no means unhealthy. The most common diseases, are nervous fevers, and complaints in the stomach and bowels. There are few remarkable instances of longevity in this parish. The oldest persons now living, have only completed their 87th year. In one family, there are four persons at present alive, whose ages, taken together, make 324 years.

Eminent Men.—This parish is said to have been the birth place, and at times the residence of the famous NAPIER of MERCHISTON, the celebrated inventor of the Logarithms.

Antiquities.—The only mark of antiquity, now to be discerned, is a large earthen mound, at a place called *Cashie*, near which, it is said, the vestiges of a Roman Camp were formerly to be seen, though now no traces of it are to be found.

NUMBER

NUMBER XXXV.

PARISH OF EDENKEILLIE.

(*Presbytery of Forres—Synod and County of Moray.*)

By the Rev. Mr. JOHN MACDONNEL, lately Minister of that Parish, now Minister of FORRES.

Origin of the Name.

THE name of the parish is clearly of Gaelic origin; *Aodiucoillie* signifying *the face of the wood*. It is descriptive of the nature of the parish, which contained two royal forests, *Ternway*, or *Darnway*, and *Drummine*. In the public records there is preserved a charter, by King David Bruce, granting to RICHARD COMYNE, a predecessor of Cumming of Altyre, an heritor in this parish, the office of forester of the king's forest of *Ternway*, in the earldom of Moray. And there is an after grant, in 1478, to THOMAS CUMMYNE of Alter, of the office of forester of the forest of *Drummyne*. The remains of natural wood, and the great quantities of oak and fir, found in the mosses of this parish, prove that the whole face of the country was formerly covered with wood. The names of many of the places in the parish, shew, what indeed might naturally be supposed, that it once abounded with deer. *Drum-*

myne signifies *venison bill*; *Bogansbeigh* and *Auchindair*, the places frequented by deer in the rutting season, &c.

Extent, Erection, Surface, &c.—This parish is very extensive, being, from N. to S., about 12 miles; and, from E. to W., about 10. It is sometimes called *Braemoray*; and it was anciently a vicarage to Forres, the seat of the Archdeacon of Moray, and comprehended Ardclach, which was not erected into a separate parish till the year 1638. The face of the country is in general hilly, but not mountainous: The highest hill in it, is called *the Knock of Braemoray*. The height of this hill, which is not considerable, has not been ascertained by measurement. Upon the banks of the rivers Findhorn and Divie, there are some of the most romantic rural scenes, which wood, water, rocks, and variety of ground can produce.

Proprietors and Rent.—There are 5 proprietors; of whom only 1 resides constantly in the parish, and another occasionally. The valued rent of the parish is 1945l. 8s. Scotch: The real rent cannot be stated with any degree of accuracy.

Rivers and Lake.—The Findhorn, already mentioned, is the principal river in this parish. It takes its rise in the hills, betwixt those districts of Inverness-shire called Strather-rig and Strathearn, above 50 miles from the sea; after traversing, with amazing rapidity, a tract of mountainous country, in a course nearly from S. W. to N. E., it discharges itself into the Moray Frith, about 4 miles below Forres. Over this dangerous river, from its source to the sea, there are only at present 2 bridges*; one upon the military road, from Aviemore

* Near to Relugas, the river Findhorn runs between two rocks, which are only 7 feet distant from each other. A plank is here placed over it, which serves for a bridge,

more to Inverness; and another at Dulfie, upon the military road from Granton to Fort-George. This river crosses the great post road to Nairn and Inverness, &c. And although it often detains the mail for many hours, and notwithstanding the loss of many lives every year, no aid has yet been procured from Government to build a bridge over it*. The other river, called *Divie*, or *Black Water*, falls into the Findhorn, and is perhaps one of the most rapid rivers in Scotland, rising often very suddenly to a great height. The principal branch of it rises among the hills which lie betwixt this parish and Strathspey. The other branch flows from a pretty considerable lake, in the S. W. corner of the parish, called Lochindorb. This branch is called *Dorback*, till it joins the Divie, about a mile below the church.

Roads and Bridges.—The road, from Forres to Granton, crosses the Divie by a stone bridge. The same road crosses the Dorback twice, and at both places there are stone bridges. In the year 1783, another bridge was built over the Divie, near its junction with the Findhorn. The arch is 62 feet wide, springing from the rocks on each side. The expence, about 220l. Sterling, was defrayed by a grant of 100l. from

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a bridge, and affords access from a considerable part of the parish, lying on the west side of the river, to the church. Owing to the river being confined so much at this narrow pass betwixt the rocks, it rises, in floods, to a prodigious height, sometimes more than 30 feet above its ordinary channel.

* Miss BRADIE of LETHEN, having procured some aid from the county funds, and subscriptions from her neighbours, engaged in building a bridge over this rapid river, about a mile below the house of Coulmony. An agreement with workmen was entered into, to execute this useful undertaking; and, in a short time, a most elegant arch, 72 feet wide, was thrown over the river. But, through some unlucky defect in the work, within less than a month after it was passable, this useful bridge gave way, and, in one night, fell into the river.

in the present Earl's possession. Whence the great difference in modern times can arise, it is not easy to explain; unless from the superior skill and industry of the fishermen nearer the sea, which prevents so great a number now getting up the river. Above the Sluic Pool, the channel of the river is so rocky, that boats and draught nets cannot be used; and the fishers are obliged to use hang nets, and other devices of that kind. Among the rocks, long iron hooks, here called *clips*, are used for catching the fish. So considerable is the number caught by these devices, and by the rod, that the price of salmon, during summer, is sometimes so low as three halfpence per pound, and seldom above twopence.—Salmon are also sometimes caught in the Divie; and both rivers afford excellent sea trouts and finnocks, and a variety of other trouts of inferior quality.

Woods and Plantations.—The natural woods in this parish are very extensive. The banks of the river are in general covered with trees. Along the west bank of the Findhorn, the ancient forest of Darnway, or Ternway, already mentioned, stretches, for upwards of 5 miles, covering about 900 acres of ground, and consisting of oaks, ashes, elms, birches, allers, hollies, mountain ashes, and a few venerable Scotch firs; with beeches, green trees, poplars, and almost every kind of tree produced in Scotland. Among these the weeping birch makes a distinguished figure; many of them being so large as 9 feet in girth. Some of the oaks, at the side of the Findhorn, are upwards of 10 feet in girth, at 3 feet from the ground. They are fresh vigorous trees, without the smallest appearance of decay. Farther up the river, is the wood of Dunduff, which is of considerable extent, and likewise the property of Lord Moray. And there is also a good deal of natural wood upon the estates of the other proprietors. But the plantations in
this

this parish, are still more extensive than the natural woods. About the year 1767, the present Earl of Moray began to fill up the vacancies in the old forest of Darnway, and has since gone on every year, extending his plantations all around his ancient Castle of Darnway, and near to Castle-Stewart, in the parish of Petty. The quantity of ground planted by his Lordship, including the ancient forest, is considerably above 3,400 acres. Part indeed lies in the neighbouring parish of Dyke, and part in the parish of Petty, in Inverness-shire, but by much the greatest part in this parish. The nurseries from which these plantations have been made, except a little at the beginning, have been all raised at Darnway. Scotch firs, planted out at two years old, from the seed-bed, are used as nurseries; and as soon as they are fit to afford shelter, the more valuable kinds of forest trees, principally oaks, are planted amongst them. These oaks, at two years old, are planted from the seed-bed into the nursery, where they remain three years; and then, as above mentioned, are planted among the firs. When the oaks, and other deciduous trees, are sufficiently advanced, the whole of the Scotch firs are to be cleared away; and some of the earlier plantations are so well grown, as to admit of the firs being completely cut out. Others of them are only cleared of the firs in part; and this operation of clearing goes on gradually and regularly. The Noble Planter has already the satisfaction of beholding his public-spirited plan fully answering his most sanguine expectations; to which he is well entitled, as every part of the plan, which is extremely simple, has been carefully and accurately executed; and proper attention paid to the preservation of the plantations, which are all in the most flourishing condition, and already greatly beautify the face of the country. Having obtained an accurate account of the number of trees planted by the Earl of Moray, since

the year 1767, the public will, doubtless, be much gratified with a copy of it, which is here subjoined.

| | | |
|--|-------------|------------|
| Oaks planted between November 1767, and autumn 1791, | - | 596,000 |
| Ash, beech, elm, sycamore, Spanish chestnut, spruce fir, and | | |
| larix, during the same period, | - 1 - - - - | 308,000 |
| Scotch fir, between November 1767, and autumn 1787, | - - | 9,687,000 |
| Total, | - | 10,591,000 |

It will still require many years, before these very extensive plantations can be filled up with oaks ; but there is at present, in the nurseries, a very large stock of young plants coming forward. The other proprietors have not been deficient in carrying on this improvement. On the estate of Logie, there are considerable plantations of Scotch fir, and a considerable number of ashes, planted by the present proprietor's father, some of them near 100 feet in height. One of these ashes was lately sold at 5l. 13s., at the rate of 1s. 6d. per foot ; a strong proof of the profit of planting. And on the estate of Relugas, about 200 acres have been planted, upon a plan similar to Lord Moray's, and upwards of 60,000 oaks planted out. Upon the estate of Dunphail, there are some old fir plantations, which have been cutting down, and felling for the use of the country, for several years past.

Climate, &c.—The air and climate of Moray, from the most distant times, have been celebrated, as of the purest and most salubrious quality, by all the writers who have described that country ; and it has been a common saying, that it enjoyed 40 days more of fair weather, than most other places in Scotland. In Whitelock's Memorials, a book of great authority, there is a curious testimony in favour of the country, in *Oliver Cromwell's* time : He says, " Ashfield's regiment was
" marched

“ marched into Murrayland, which is the most fruitful country
 “ in Scotland, and the common proverb is, that it hath fifteen
 “ days more of summer than any other part of the nation.”^{*}
 It is unnecessary to mention the praises given to it by Buchanan and others. The superior degree of dryness, perhaps applies more to the level plains of Moray, along the sea side, than to this parish, where more rain falls than, in the lower parts of the country. But no place can enjoy a healthier air than this parish does, being hardly ever troubled with fogs, or pernicious exhalations; and the rivers, so far from being hurtful, rather tend to purify the air, by the rapidity of their course. There are no diseases peculiar to this part of the country.

Fruit, Orchard, &c.—In the valley of Logie, which is the warmest part of the parish, standard and wall fruit trees grow well. Mr. CUMMING of LOGIE, besides an excellent garden, a good many years ago planted 4 Scotch acres of ground with fruit trees. This beautiful orchard is close to the Findhorn, exposed to the south; but on all other sides well sheltered by higher grounds, and tall forest trees. In favourable seasons, it already richly repays the expence of planting and inclosing.

Soil, Cultivation and Produce.—The soil of the lower part of the parish, near the rivers, is of a light dry quality, rather tending to sandy; but, when properly managed, very fertile and productive. A very great proportion of the parish consists of muir and moss; great part of which might be improved, if lime, of which there is none in this parish, could be procured. For though there is some in the parish of Forres, it is too expensive an article for common tenants to purchase, and
 hitherto

^{*} Lond. Edit. Anno 1732, p. 517.

hitherto has not been furnished in any sufficient quantity. The only kinds of grain raised in this parish, are barley, Scotch bear, oats, and some rye. Every tenant plants a few potatoes for family use; but no great quantity is raised. In the upper parts of the parish, they prefer sowing the black or grey oats; a species much inferior to the white; but the black are thought more productive of straw for fodder; an article much wanted, as a considerable number of cattle are bred in the parish. Farming is in a very wretched state in this part of the country. They give all their dung to their bear crop; after which they take repeated crops of oats, sometimes 4 or 5 successively, till the land hardly returns the seed; and then it is left ley for some years. Although the great benefit of green crops, and a proper rotation, has been shewn by some of the gentlemen, the example has not hitherto had any effect to improve the practice of the common farmers.

Black Cattle, Horses and Sheep.—A considerable number of black cattle are reared in this parish, somewhat larger in size than the Highland kind; and many of them are used in the plough. The horses are small, and of a very indifferent quality. Most of the tenants keep a few sheep; but the management of that animal is not well understood here. They had no other kind, till of late, but the ancient breed of the country, with white faces, affording fine wool, and most excellent mutton. The best of the wool of this species, sells for 18s. per stone; and, though generally a small animal, from poor feeding, it may, when better kept, be brought to the size of 13lb. or 14lb. per quatter. This part of the country, abounding in woods and rocks, affords too much harbour for foxes; it is therefore necessary to house the sheep at night in cotts, which makes the constitution of the animal rather delicate, and has been the reason of introducing the black faced Tweeddale

breed; which, though rather hardier, is much inferior, both as to wool and mutton. *It will be a great loss to the country, IF OUR ANCIENT BREED SHOULD WEAR OUT, of which there is great danger.*

Population.—The register of births, marriages, and deaths, having been irregularly kept, previous to the settlement of the writer, which was only in 1791, he can say little upon the population of the parish. The number of souls, in the return to Dr. Webster in 1755, was 1443; it is now 1800: so that the increase is 357; and the population appears to be still upon the increase, as a good deal of the waste land, in the remoter parts of the parish, has lately been brought into culture, by families settling in these wilder parts of it.—Many of the people live to a great age. There are two women, now alive, whose ages amount to 180.

Occupations.—The chief employment of the inhabitants is agriculture. The farms are very small, from 3l. to 10l., and a very few go the length of 20l. a year, which fully accounts for the low state of farming.—There is little industry among the men, except in the poor employment of preparing and carrying peats to the town of Forres, at the distance of 10 or 12 miles from the moor, of which there is an inexhaustible quantity among the hills. The women are diligent spinners; a branch of manufacture, introduced into this parish, by the late Dr. PATRICK CUMING of Relugas, who obtained a number of wheels and reels from the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, and a salary to a schoolmistress. But there is still much room for improvement in this branch.—The people, in this part of the country, have such frequent intercourse with the town of Forres, that they buy the greatest part

part of their necessities at the markets there†. This likewise gives them an opportunity to get their own manufactures disposed of, which are but very few. There are a sufficient number of weavers and tailors, for manufacturing the stuffs worn by the inhabitants. There are 2 shoemakers, 4 coppers, and 10 riddlemakers; and almost every man in the parish is a cartwright. They make their carts of alder and birch timber, and supply the Elgin and Forres markets. The price of them, in general, is from 6s. to 12s.

Distilleries.—There are no less than 4 distilleries for making whisky in this parish, which consume a great quantity of barley; and, what is astonishing, they sell these spirits as fast as they can run them! The inhabitants of this parish are, however, in general, sober. Their whisky they send up to Strathspey and Badenoch. To account for the constant demand for whisky in the north of Scotland, we must reflect, that, of late years, a total stop has been put to smuggling, by the great attention of the revenue officers, in the west and north coasts of Scotland, which formerly supplied the whole country with foreign spirits. It must, however, be allowed, that there is more of this liquor used by the common people, than is good for their health or morals.

Church, &c.—The church is situated upon the banks of the Divie, about $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of Forres. It was built in

A B 2

1741,

† The prices of provisions are much regulated by the neighbouring town of Forres. Hens are sold for 6d. a piece, chickens 3d., ducks 5d., geese 2s.; eggs, per dozen, 1½d.; sweet milk, per pint, 1d.; skimmed ditto ½d.; butter, per pound, 8d.; and cheese, per stone, 4s.: get farm servants, from 1l. 10s. to 2l. in the half year, with 6½ bolls of meal in the year, or victuals in the house: women servants from 15s. to 1l. in the half year, with victuals, or 3 stones of meal: day labourers 7d. or 8d. in summer, and 6d. in winter.

1741, and, with some repairs, might be made a very commodious place of worship. The manse, which is of an older date, is not in good condition. The stipend is 41l. 2s. 2½d, Sterling, and three chalders of victual, half bear half meal, with a glebe of eight acres, and a good garden. The Earl of Moray is undoubted patron.

Schools and Poor.—There is an established school in this parish, the salary only 100 merks Scotch. The number of scholars is about 30. Reading English, writing and arithmetic are the branches of education commonly taught. There is at present only 1 school in this parish, supported by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, though there is a *claim for three*, in consequence of a donation by Dr. DRYCAN CUMING, son of James Cuming, Esq. of Relugas*. This school, however, is of great utility, being situated in a part of the parish, altogether detached from the church and the parish school.—The poor's funds are very small, not exceeding 5l. Sterling annually, arising solely from the collections at the church; but the deficiency is made up by the charitable disposition of the inhabitants, who never refuse to assist those in distress.

Antiquities.—In the upper part of the parish, among the hills, between Strathspey and Braemoray, stood the *Castle of Lechindorb*, built on an island, situated in the middle of a lake of the same name. It appears to have been a very considerable place, and a fortress of great strength. *Catbarine de Beaumont*, widow of *David de Hastings*, Earl of Atholl, who was

* This gentleman was physician to King William III. at the battle of the Boyne, in 1690, and afterwards settled as a physician in Dublin. In 1714, he sent the sum of 261l. 13s. 9d. Sterling to the Society, with a recommendation, that they should keep always 3 schools in this parish.

was killed at the battle of Kilblaine, anno 1335, resided in this castle, which was blockaded by Sir Andrew Moray, the regent during King *David Bruce's* captivity. In the following year, Edward III. of England led his army northward, the length of Inverness, and, on his way thither, raised the siege of this castle. It seems afterwards to have been converted into a state prison; for, in the year 1342, the famous *William Bullock*, who was a great favourite of King *David Bruce*, was imprisoned there, and died through extremity of cold and hunger †. The remains of this castle cover a space of ground, not less than 100 square yards.

The *Downe Hill of Relugas* seems to have been a fortress of still greater antiquity, and used as such far beyond the period of authentic history. It appears to have been a place of strength, to which the inhabitants of the country retired, with their cattle, upon the invasion of the Danes, to which this country of Moray was so frequently exposed. It is a conical hill, round a considerable part of which runs the rapid river of Divie, in a deep rocky channel; and, where not defended by the river, it is encircled by a deep fosse, or ditch, with a strong rampart on the outside, mostly composed of stones, some of which have the appearance of vitrification ‡.

About a mile higher up the same river, stands the *Castle of Dunphail*, upon a rock of a very singular appearance, surrounded

† *Vide* Lord Hailes's *Annals*, vol. II. p. 189, 190, and 209.

‡ Upon the summit of this hill, which is 220 feet of perpendicular height above the river, there is a level space, in the form of an oblong square, about 60 yards in length, and 20 in breadth. This level piece of ground has been converted into a nursery for trees. In digging the ground, a quantity of human bones, ashes and charcoal were found. When the country was covered with wood, this place, from its difficulty of access, and the steepness of the hill itself, must have been of great strength, and easily defended by a handful of men against great numbers.

rounded by a deep gully, or narrow glen, formed probably by the river, which, at a very remote period, seems to have run in this channel. The rock is of a considerable size, with a level area upon the summit of it, similar to the Downhill, of good soil, covered with grass, and several trees growing upon it. The sides are so steep, that it is altogether inaccessible, except upon that next the river, where there is a narrow road leading up to the castle. It formerly belonged to a family of the name of Dunbar; it is now the property of Mr Cumming of Altyre*.

Character of the People.—The inhabitants are all of the established religion, there being no sectaries. In the lower part of the parish, the Scotch dialect of the English language is only spoken; but, in the upper part, the Gaelic is still much in use. About 50 years ago, the minister preached the one half of the day in English, and the other half in Gaelic. The people are rather gloomy in their ideas as to religion; but they are of a peaceable disposition, sober and honest in their dealings, and very ready to extend their charity to the poor.

* The very singular *Bridge of Rannich* should also here be taken notice of. It is certainly of great antiquity; for tradition says, that it derived its name from the illustrious RANDOLPH, Earl of Moray, who was regent of Scotland, after the death of King ROBERT BRUCE.

NUMBER XXXVI.

UNITED PARISHES OF MONIVAIRD AND
STROWAN.

*(County of Perth—Presbytery of Auchterarder—Synod of
Perth and Stirling.)*

*By the Rev. Mr. COLIN BAXTER. Minister of these united
Parishes.*

Origin of the Names.

MONIVAIRD and STROWAN, originally distinct parishes, have been united for at least a century and a half. The modern name, *Monivaird*, is a corruption of the ancient, which was *Moivard*, as appears by a grant made by the Earl of Stratherne, in the beginning of the 13th century, of the church of St. Servanus, or Serph of *Moivard*, to the monastery of *Inchaffery*. The ancient name is still retained, in the speech of a few inhabitants of the parish, who use a corrupted dialect of the original language of Scotland. The origin of the name cannot easily be traced. Its etymology is Gaelic; being made up of two words, *Moi Vard*, signifying *the Plain of Bards*. *Strowan* is probably a corruption of *St. Roman*, the tutelar saint of *Strowan* parish.

Situation,

Situation, Extent, and general Appearance. These parishes are situated in the upper part of Strathern, in Perthshire. They are of a triangular form, and of considerable extent; being about 8 miles long, from N. to S. and about 6 miles broad from E. to W. The general appearance of the country is romantic. The Grampian mountains, on the north, are among the highest in the neighbourhood. The lesser hills, in the bottom, are picturesque in their forms, having their sides covered with fine copse wood, and their heads crowned with firs. The river Earn flows, in beautiful curves, in the bottom of the valley.

Soil and Cultivation.—The soil is various, but the greater part is light and gravelly. The haughs on the banks of the Earn, which are frequently overflowed, produce rich crops. The banks next the bottom, have long been cultivated as infields; that is, ground which receives all the manure, produced from the lands in the tenants possession. It is therefore very rich; but, from constant culture in white crops, is much infested with weeds, especially if frequent mild rains succeed sowing. Late sowing is therefore practised under the old husbandry; the inconvenience of which is the less felt, as the soil is dry, well exposed, and well sheltered, and therefore naturally early. Another kind of soil, employed in tillage, lies on the banks above the infields. This ground is prepared for yielding three crops of oats, by folding the cattle upon it, or by watering it, by means of the rivulets which run from the hills: And, after being thus cropped, it is thrown into grass. These fields, not being sown with grass seeds, suffer much, from their sloping posture, before they gather a sward sufficient to prevent the heavy rains from washing away great part of the finest of the soil. They are now, however, at least in some parts of the parish, allotted for the winter pasture of the sheep that are kept on the hills in summer. The infield grounds, though

though neither limed nor marled are uncommonly fertile in natural grass. The lands, which are limed or marled, belonging to Sir William Murray of Ochtertyre, are thrown into regular rotations of cropping: And the tenants are thriving, under this system. But the greater part of the soil is better fitted to produce grass than corn; as much of it lies in steep banks, abounds with stones, and is liable to be washed away by the rains when in tillage. There are no commons in the parish; and little muir, or waste ground, is brought into tillage, except by the above mentioned proprietor and his tenants. Although a great proportion of the land is incapable of being cultivated, yet there is enough of it arable, for producing more than is necessary for the maintenance of its inhabitants.

Produce and Climate.—The principal crops are oats and barley. Potatoes and pease are the only green crops raised by the tenants. Turnips are only sown by a very few, chiefly proprietors. The soil of the parish fit for culture, when well treated, produces excellent barley, which, all things considered, is found to be a more profitable crop than wheat, which has been very little attempted here. A considerable quantity of lint is raised in the parish; particularly on the haugh grounds, which, from their situation, receive an annual deposit of rich mud; or on the spots of infield, which have been for some years in grass, for the second crop; or in old parks, of good and well-laid-down land, also for the second crop; and on the most fertile of the outfields, which can admit of being well watered. In short, the propensity to sowing lint here is so great, from the profits arising from it, that the more intelligent proprietors restrict their tenants to a certain quantity; as lint is a very scourging crop, and leaves nothing behind for recruiting the soil.—From what has been said of the parish,

with regard to situation and soil, it will appear, that it must be healthy: And it really is so; few dying before a mature age.

Rivers and Fish.—The principal river is the Erne; which would abound with salmon, if they were not prevented from getting up, by the cruives and fixed nets near the mouth of the river. As the proprietors above can get few of them in summer, they take no charge of them during the spawning season, when great numbers of them are destroyed. It is therefore probable, that the owners of the cruives would find more advantage in the common use of nets, if the proprietors of the upper grounds had an interest in protecting the salmon during the forbidden time, because the numbers would be much greater than what are now allowed to be bred. And it is a well known fact, that a very great proportion of the salmon bred in a river return to it, unless prevented by some accidental or artificial cause.

Lakes and Echo.—There are several small lakes in the parish. The largest of them, Lochturret, lies in Glenturret, and is surrounded by very bold craggy mountains. It is about a mile long, and a quarter of a mile broad. There is also a small lake, in the same glen, about a mile north from the former, remarkable for the great number of trouts which are collected in a small opening in the middle of it, the only place which is free from weeds. There is another lake, called the *Loch of Monivaird*, which covers about 30 acres, and contains pike, perch and eels. This lake, situated at the bottom of a fine hanging wood, and surrounded by cultivated fields and plantations, is a delightful object to passengers, and a great beauty to the pleasure grounds of Ochertyre. It contains a rich treasure of shell marle, which is taken up, in many places.

places, from the depth of 24 feet; and although covered, in some parts, with 5 or 6 feet of moss, or mud, which must be previously removed by the dragging instrument, it is, notwithstanding, obtained at an expence of from 2½d. to 3d. per boll. It is principally by means of this marle, that the proprietor has cultivated a considerable tract of waste and unproductive ground, and induced his tenants to adopt a spirited and regular system of husbandry.—On the banks of the last mentioned lake, there is a fine repeating echo; produced, it is supposed, from the walls of an old ruinous castle; which stands on a gently rising ground running out into the middle of the lake; and which was a place of strength in ancient times, being then surrounded with water, and accessible only in one place by a drawbridge.

Woods and Hills.—All kinds of wood, produced in Scotland, thrive remarkably well in this parish; but the oak seems to be a particular favourite of the soil. Besides the oak and birch, of which the copsewood chiefly consists, a great variety of other trees have been planted of late, both on the estate of Lawers, the property of Colonel Robertson; and on that of Ochtertyre, the property of Sir William Murray; particularly on the lands of the latter, who has, for more than 20 years, planted annually incredible numbers of all sorts.—The highest mountain, on the northern extremity of the parish, is *Benchonzie*, which signifies the mossy mountain, there being about 40 acres, on its summit, covered with a species of moss. Its elevation, above the level of the sea, is 2922 feet. Near the base of this mountain, on the east, is a cluster of small conical hills, which strike the eye of every stranger as a curious *lusus naturæ*. *Tòrlum*, a hill on the southern extremity of the parish, is 1,400 feet above the level of the sea. The hills in the parish are in general very rocky, and covered with

heath. They have, however, many green spots intermixed; and they answer well for pasturing sheep, with which they are now covered.

Wild Animals.—The principal birds of prey are the eagle, kite, raven and falcon, which build their nests in the craggy precipices of Glenturret. This glen was famous, in former times, for producing falcons of the best kind, when hawking was a favourite amusement in this country. It produced the pair, which the late Duke of Atholl presented to the King at his coronation, as a token of his holding the Isle of Man of the Crown of England. On the hills, are grouse, dottorel, plover, and several migratory birds, whose names are not very well known here. A few ptarmigans are to be met with on the summit of Benchonzie; birds which frequent only the tops of high mountains, and which are supposed to feed on the insects bred among the grey moss, which is almost the only plant that grows on such elevated ground. In the hilly part of the parish, the sportsmen sometimes meet with a species of hare, which is of a bluish colour in summer, and white as snow in winter. The principal water fowl, which frequent the lakes, are the wild duck, teal, and widgeon. In the low grounds, are found all the birds which usually breed in a woody country. The bullfinches have become very numerous of late, attracted, it is supposed, by the blossoms of the larch trees, which abound in the young plantations, and which afford them food, before the fruit trees put forth their buds. There are partridges, hares and rabbits, in abundance; and a few foxes, badgers, wild cats, martins and otters.

Black Cattle, Horses, Sheep, &c.—There are about 240 horses in the parish, between 900 and 1000 black cattle, and about 5000 sheep. The horses are of a middling size, and in
general

general not very handsome, as the common people pay little attention to the improvement of the breed. They are equally negligent with regard to their black cattle; but it is hoped, that the prizes, which the gentlemen of this country mean to distribute annually, among the owners of the best bulls, will have the effect of improving the breed of cattle. The breed of horses, too, would soon improve, were every considerable proprietor to keep a handsome stallion for the use of his tenants. The sheep of this country are of the black faced kind, and came originally from Linton. They are hardy; but their wool is shaggy and coarse. The average price of wool, this year, is 8s. per stone. The carcase weighs about 2 stones Dutch. Had the hill grounds been let to experienced sheep farmers from the south country, the breed of sheep, and the wool, would perhaps have been more improved by this time, and higher rents given for the sheep walks. But as these advantages could not easily be obtained, without depopulating the country, the proprietors have let the hill grounds to their old tenants, contenting themselves with what rent they can easily afford to pay. A few of the Cheviot sheep have been lately introduced into the flocks kept in the low grounds, for the use of private families, and thrive very well. The hill tenants, however, seem unwilling as yet to make trial of them, as they think them too large for their pasture, and not hardy enough for standing out severe winters. As the pasture improves under the sheep system, a larger species of that animal will be gradually introduced.

Rent and Proprietors—The arable land, in general, lets from about 10s. to 15s. per acre; a small part of it, indeed, for 20s. and upwards. The hill grounds are not let by measure, but by the lump.—The proprietors are 12 in number; of whom only 2 of the greater, and 1 of the smaller heritors reside in the parish.

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rith. The arable farms are, in general, from 20l. to 30l. a year. There are a few tenants who pay from 40l. to 60l.

Ecclesiastical State.—There are two or three of the Episcopal church, a few Antiburgher Seceders, two or three Bereans, a sect of which Mr. BARCLAY, in Edinburgh, is the founder, and one Roman Catholic. The Earl of Kinnoul is patron. The stipend amounts to 50l. in money, and 2 chalders of victual, half meal, half barley, and a glebe of about 7 acres. A process of augmentation is now depending. The manse was built about 40 years ago. In 1782 it was repaired, and new offices erected. It is not certain, when the churches of Monivaird and Strowan were built. About the beginning of last century, a party of the Murrays and Drummonds having quarrelled, the former being worsted in a skirmish, fled for sanctuary to the church of Monivaird, whither they were pursued by their savage enemies, who set fire to the roof, which was then thatched with heather, and burnt many of them to death. The church is now in very good repair; and, though far from being elegant or commodious, it is at least as decent as many of the churches of Strathern.

Poor.—The number of poor at present on the roll, who receive a stated weekly allowance, is six. Besides these, however, there are several others who receive alms occasionally. The funds for their support are the weekly collections, dues for the use of the mortcloth, and proclamation of banns, together with the interest of 72l., amounting in all, at an average, to 24l. a year. There are no poor people in the parish, it is said, who beg from door to door; and the few, who are in very straitened circumstances, never apply for relief to the parish funds, till they are compelled by dire necessity*.

Population.

* In the seasons of dearth, in 1782 and 1783, there were several poor householders.

Population.—The inhabitants have greatly decreased within these last 40 years. This decrease is chiefly owing to the union of some of the small arable farms, and to the removal of many of the cotters to the neighbouring villages of Crieff and Comrie.

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| The return to Dr. Webster's inquiries, was | - | - | - | 1460 |
| At present, the number amounts only to | - | - | - | 1025 |
| Decrease, | - | - | - | 435 |

| | | |
|---|---|----|
| The average of births for 10 years, from 1734 to 1743, is | - | 46 |
| Ditto, from 1750 to 1759, - - - - - | - | 36 |
| Ditto, from 1782 to 1791, - - - - - | - | 30 |
| Ditto of marriages, from 1782 to 1791, - - - - - | - | 7. |
| Ditto of deaths, for the same period, - - - - - | - | 11 |

Antiquities.—There are no crosses nor obelisks in the parish, except the cross in the market place at Ströwan, concerning which there is nothing remarkable, but that the initials of JESUS NAZARENUS REX JUDÆORUM are the only characters on it that are legible. The remains of two Roman posts of observation are to be seen on the estate of Ochertyre; one of which is so chosen as to command a view of the camp at Dalginrofs, the other that of the camp on the muir of Orchil. On a hill called *Tom-a-bastle* (i. e. *Castlehill*), about 3 miles east from Dalginrofs, the traces of a fortification are still visible. About 50 years ago, most of the stones were carried away by the proprietor, to inclose some grounds at the bottom of

holders, who could not be prevailed upon to accept of any of the meal allowed by Government, till they were told it was a present from the King, and not furnished from the poor's funds. This spirit of independence prevails most among the oldest set of tenantry in the parish; who, having a kind of family character to support, are averse from doing any thing that would seem to de grade it.

of the hill. Whether this fort was erected by the Earl of Strathern, as tradition says, or whether it is of a more ancient date, cannot be easily ascertained *.

Eminent Men.—Colonel Dow, author of *the History of Hindostan*, whose literary merits are well known, was a native of this parish.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—The salubrity of the air, the fine springs of water, the numerous rivulets, the goodness of the roads, and a variety of other circumstances, render this part

* Near the western extremity of the parish, there are two Druidical temples. Besides these remains of antiquity, many *barrows*, or heaps of stones, known, in the ancient language of the country, by the name of *coirns*, and intended for sepulchral monuments, were to be seen a few years ago, near the banks of the Erne, towards the eastern extremity of the parish; but they have been lately removed, for the purpose of building stone fences; and no memorial now remains of the illustrious dead whom they once covered. Some miles to the northward of the church of Monivaird, there is a very large barrow, called *Carr Sheinibin*, or monumental heap of Kenneth. From the name and situation, we presume it was raised to the memory of that Kenneth, whose death is recorded in the following lines of our oldest historical chronicles:

*Quo truncatus erat, BARDORUM CAMPUS habetur,
A nato KENNEDI, nomine MALCOLMI.*

This Kenneth was the IVth of that name. He is usually mentioned in history, by his epithet of GRIM, or GRIMUS; in the same manner as Odo has left his proper name for its adjunct DUFF, or DUFFUS. The register of St. Andrews informs us, that "*Kenneth (Grim)*, son of *Odo (Dubh-Odo)*, was slain by *Mskalan* the II. and son of Kenneth the III. at Moieghvard, in 1001." About 200 yards west from the church of Monivaird, a barrow was opened some years ago, in which two urns were found, each containing a stone of a bluish colour, very hard, about four inches long, and of a triangular shape, somewhat resembling the head of an ax. One of them is in the possession of FETER MURRAY, Esq. younger of Ochtertyre. I am told they are of the same kind of stone and shape, with those which the inhabitants of the South Sea islands fasten to a shaft, and use as a weapon in war.

part of Strathern a delightful country to live in, particularly during the summer season. The chief inconvenience, we feel, is our distance from coal; which, though brought in carts, over a hilly road, upwards of 20 miles, is a cheaper fuel than peats or wood. We have now, however, the prospect of having this inconvenience in some degree remedied, by the turnpike road, that is proposed to be carried from Crieff to Blairngone, which is our nearest coal pit. Indeed, nothing seems to be wanting but coals to make this a very thriving country. For if that necessary article could be got at a moderate price, we should find limestone in abundance for improving our lands. We should also have manufactures of different kinds established among us, as we have the finest falls of water for driving machinery, particularly on the Erne and the Turrot, in the neighbourhood of the populous village of Crieff. On the latter river, there are not less than 15 or 16 mills, of different kinds, in the course of a mile and a half; and as it takes its rise from a lake of considerable extent, by erecting a dike at the mouth of the lake (which could be done for 15*l.*), a sufficient quantity of water could be obtained, for driving the heaviest machinery, even in the greatest drought. The manufactured goods could be easily transported, from Crieff to Perth, by the turnpike road, which is now forming between these two towns; or by a canal, which could be carried from Crieff to within a mile of the Tay, without a lock. These improvements, however, we do not expect to see carried to their greatest height, unless we can find coal nearer than Blairngone. Our proprietors, therefore, who shew abundance of public spirit on most occasions, should unite, and make a fair trial for discovering coal in Strathern. Were they to take the lead, all the parishes around would certainly contribute liberally towards such an undertaking.

NUMBER XXXVII.

PARISH OF KILBRIDE IN ARRAN.

(County of Bute—Presbytery of Kintyre—Synod of Argyll.)

By the Rev. Mr. GERSHOM STUART, Minister.

Names and Extent.

ARRAN is derived from the Celtic word *Arin*. *Ar*, signifies *bigb*, and *In* an *island*. Kilbride is said to be compounded of *Kil*, a burying place, and *Bride*, a contraction for Bridget, the name of an ancient saint. The extent of the parish, from Dippin on the south, to Lochranza on the north, is 14 miles. A ridge of hills separates it, on the west, from Kilmorie. The Isle of Arran is 7 miles in breadth,

Soil, Produce and Cattle.—The soil is hard and stoney. Most of the farms lying on the declivity of hills, the best prepared land scarce yields two returns. To supply the deficiency of corn, the inhabitants plant great quantities of potatoes, which are their principal food for 9 months in the year. They lay out, upon seed corn and meal, about 500*l*. a year; and they sell annually about 200 bolls of barley; besides

besides 500 head of black cattle, and 80 sheep. Part of the latter are killed for home consumption. Out of these articles, and the profits of their fish, they are enabled to pay their rents.

Fishing.—Fish of all kinds are caught round the island. In the beginning of winter, fishermen come from the North Country, to fish for the Glasgow market, and continue with success till May. In July, the herrings frequent the coast, when the inhabitants bestow the most unwearied application to the fishing till the end of November. It is computed, that the boats, employed in this fishing, bring into the island no less than 1000l. a year.

Climate and Diseases.—The air is very salubrious. There is no sultry heat in summer, the air being constantly purified by land or sea breezes. People advanced in years, however, often complain of coughs and rheumatisms during winter. These diseases are much owing to the dampness of their houses, and the scarcity of fuel, to render them warm and comfortable; which is occasioned by the *coal tax*. For many years past, a great number of children died of the natural small pox. Parents are now more reconciled to inoculation, as they find that this artificial distemper, under the direction of a skilful surgeon, saves the lives of numbers. There is a disorder, no less fatal to children, which seems to be peculiar to this island, as it is seldom known any where else, called the *eight-day sickness*. Infants are seized with it the 8th day after birth, by the falling down of the jaw, attended with violent convulsions. No means have yet been found effectual to remove this disorder. Much of the cause is ascribed to unskilful midwives*.

* This disease is mentioned by Dr. UNDAWOOD (vol. I. p. 336), under the title

Mountains and Minerals.—Goatfield is the highest hill in the parish. It is 2,840 feet perpendicular above the level of the sea. There is not a more extensive prospect in Britain, than the top of Goatfield affords. Many transparent stones are found on it, naturally formed into pentagons, heptagons and octagons, and all pointed at the top as if done by art. Lapidaries purchase these stones, and apply them to various uses*. At *Corrie*, near the sea-shore, there is a rich mine of marle and lime stone, which might, at a small expence, be carried coast-wise round the island, to the west side; where there are extensive farms, upon a soil of a mixed loam of clay and moss. Marle and lime, laid on this ground, would produce great crops of corn, which is much wanted in the island. At *Cock of Arran* there are free stone, lime stone, iron ore, blind coal and slates. The slates, on trial, are found to be of an excellent quality. Within an English mile of Lochranza harbour, a cart road is already made, from the slate quarry to the shore. On both sides of *Lamblash Bay*, there is a fine free stone, between the beds of which *craw coal* is found. And it is affirmed, that wherever this appears, there is a body of coal under it†. A coal, so near a fine harbour

25

title of "*the seven days disease*;" but he does not describe it accurately, nor attempt to investigate its nature. In the opinion of an eminent physician in this city, "the disease cannot proceed from any injury, which the child can suffer during delivery; and therefore the midwives can have no concern in occasioning it, unless they swerve so far from their professional duty, as arbitrarily to dictate some improper mode of managing the child, for the first seven days after birth." According to the opinion of another eminent physician in town, (Dr. W. W.) it is "that species of the locked jaw, mentioned by several authors as the trismus infantum, which is very fatal to new born children in the West Indies."

* They are known, among the jewellers, by the name of *Arran stones*, *Cairngorms*, and *Scotch topazes*; and are often set in gold for rings, and other ornaments. The colour is generally a dark brown; but some are found of a beautiful yellow, which are reckoned very valuable.

† About 70 years ago, colliers were employed to make trial for coal. Owing to some treachery, the search proved unsuccessful, and no farther trial has ever since been made.

as Lamblash, would be of inestimable value to the Duke of Hamilton, the proprietor, and would tend greatly to the improvement of the whole island.

Harbours and Lighthouse.—There are only 2 harbours in the island, viz. *Lamblash* and *Lochranza*. Lamblash Bay is a semicircle. *Holy Isle*, in the mouth of it, forms the harbour, having an inlet or opening at both points. A light-house is lately erected on the isle of *Pladda*, which directs ships into the port of Lamblash at night. The south end of Arran is rocky; and many shipwrecks happened there before the light-house was erected. Lochranza, at the north end of Arran, affords a safe harbour for small boats, in the time of the herring fishing. An old castle, situated at the bottom of the bay, serves to direct the boats into the harbour.

Population.—The number of souls, at present (1793) in the parish, is - - - - - - - 2545
The return to Dr. Webster, in 1755, was - - 1369
Increase, - - 1176

This increase would have been considerably greater, had not the population diminished of late; as upwards of 300 sailors go annually to the royal navy, the bounty fishing, or on board merchant ships, many of whom never return.

Ecclesiastical State and Poor.—The Duke of Hamilton is patron. There are 2 ministers in the island, each of whom has a yearly stipend of 70l., with a glebe and a manse. An assistant to both is settled at Lochranza, and has the charge of the northern district, with an annual salary of 500 merks Scotch. —There are only 12 on the poor's roll. Quarterly collections are

are made for their support, and distributed according to their age and necessities. There is also 40l. lent out at interest, allotted for their relief in cases of scarcity, or other extraordinary emergencies : And certain pensioners of the Duke of Hamilton's are regularly supplied with meal by his factor.

Proprietor and Rent.—The Duke of Hamilton is proprietor of the whole island, except 5 small farms. The yearly rent of Arran is 3,500l.

Character.—The whole inhabitants belong to the Established Church, and are a sober well disposed people. They attend divine service with great regularity; are well acquainted with the Scriptures; shew a good example to their children, and instruct them in the principles of Christianity.

NUMBER XXXVIII.

PARISH OF MOONZIE.

(County and Synod of Fife—Presbytery of Cupar.)

By the Rev. Mr. ANDREW IRELAND, Minister.

Name and Extent.

THE origin of the name is unknown. It is probably derived from the Gaelic, the language which formerly prevailed all over the peninsula of Fife. There is a parish, with almost the same name (*Monzie*), in the presbytery of Auchterarder, where the names of places are also of Celtic extraction.—Moonzie, in point of extent and population, is perhaps the smallest parochial district in Scotland, and furnishes very slender materials indeed, for statistical observation and inquiry. It is only 1 Scotch mile in length, and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ in breadth. The number of acres is between 1,000 and 1,100.

Surface, Soil, Produce, Cattle, &c.—A great part of the parish is hilly, and the rest is flat and low. The soil is very thin, but fertile. In a wet summer, it produces very good crops, both of corn and grass; but, in a dry season, all the hilly ground is quite parched.—There are 17 ploughs in the parish. The farmers, now, only put 2 horses to the plough, and 1 man both holds and drives. This is a very great saving. There are about 34 or 36 horses in the parish; and a very few sheep,
which

which one of the farmers keeps for his own private use. There are also some black cattle bred for sale.

Farms, Proprietors and Rent.—There are only 4 farms in the parish, viz. *Moonzie, Lords-Cairnie, Torr, and Collythie.* The three former belong to the Earl of Crawford, and the latter to Mrs. Bell of Hilton. The rent will amount to something more than 1000*l.* Sterling per annum.

Population.—The population has decreased greatly within these 40 years, considering the number of inhabitants.

The return to Dr. Webster, in the year 1755, was - 249

The number of souls at present (March 1793), is only 171

Decrease, - 78

Under 10 years of age, - 30 From 50 to 70, - 35

From 10 to 20, - 32 Annual average of births 3

From 20 to 50, - 74 Do. deaths, rather less than 3

Church, School and Poor.—The value of the living, including the glebe, is about 90*l.* Sterling. Lord Crawford is patron. The manse got some repairs last summer, and the kirk and offices will need them soon.—The schoolmaster's salary is 5*l.* 10*s.* per annum. The school dues are very small.—There are only 3 or 4 persons in the parish who get charity; but they do not need much. The fund is very small.

Character, &c.—The people are very decent and regular in their attendance upon divine worship. They are also very diligent and industrious in procuring subsistence for their families.—This parish labours under no particular disadvantage. It is a great way off from coal; but there is now a fine turnpike road the most of the way. It has one great advantage, that it is within 2 short miles of the town Cupar, where the people get a good price for any thing they have to sell.

N U M B E R X X X I X .

PARISH OF SYMINGTON.

(County of Lanark—Presbytery of Biggar—Synod of Lothian
and Tweeddale.)

By the Rev. Mr. JAMES FINLAYSON, Minister.

Situation, Extent, Prospect, &c.

SYMINGTON is situated 30 miles S. W. from Edinburgh, and 33 miles S. W. from Glasgow. The parish is 3 miles in length, and nearly the same in breadth. The arable land lies along the banks of the Clyde, and the pasture reaches to the top of *Tinto*, on which there is a cairn of stones, said to be the remains of a Druidical temple. This mountain, though not the highest in Scotland, yet being about 2,400 feet above the level of the sea, commands a beautiful and most extensive prospect: With the naked eye, you can see part of 16 different counties.—The village is situated at the foot of a rising ground, called the *Castle-hill*, which has formerly been a place of strength, and is now planted with various kinds of trees.

Cultivation and Produce.—Improvements in agriculture are carried on with great spirit. Twenty years ago, there was not

an acre of sown grafs in the parish; now, almost every tenant has part of his farm properly laid down with a crop of rye-grafs and clover.—The rule, which they generally observe, in the quantity and proportion of grafs seeds to each acre, is,—red clover, 10 lb.; white ditto, 2 lb.; rib-grafs, 2 lb.; and rye-grafs, $\frac{1}{2}$ boll.—Ten years ago, there were no turnips to be seen; and now, every one who is not doing more or less in that way, is considered as void of all spirit and skill. It is found by experience, that these green crops, not only meliorate the ground, but are of more present value than the best crops of barley or oats*.—The occupiers of small farms go on, or ought to go on, systematically, in the following rotation: 1st, potatoes and turnips; 2d, barley sown with grafs seeds; 3d, hay; 4th, pasture; 5th, oats. This rotation, or a rotation of 4 crops, setting apart the 5th division for perpetual pasture, keeps the ground clean and in good heart. The crofts of Symington are divided, with hedge and ditch, into inclosures of 10, 15, and 20 acres, and let from 1l. 5s. to 1l. 13s. per acre. The larger farms, which are not inclosed, let at about 10s. per acre. Of these, only one is rented above 100l.

Being

* The sudden change, in this place, is to be ascribed, in a great measure, to the example set by the late Major TELFER, who, on retiring from the army, in order to amuse himself, and advance the happiness of mankind, took a lease, from his brother, of 100 acres of the most useless part of the estate, wholly covered with broom, and let for a sheep walk, at 8l. per annum. In the space of six years, this barren field was made to produce excellent crops of corn, turnips and hay; and WOULD NOW, with the feeding of houghs, *let at EIGHT TIMES THE FORMER RENT*. Lime being got at four miles distance, the expense was moderate. This example had, as might be expected, a noble effect. Some are still attached to the old husbandry. All new schemes, however wise and beneficial, in this and every other department, will, for a time, be strongly opposed by pride and prejudice: But *bigotry in farming*, is more easily eradicated than *bigotry in religion*; as the bad consequences of a wrong system are more visible, and sooner felt, in the one case than in the other.

Being at a distance from any great town, potatoes sell commonly at 4s. the boll, and therefore are not raised in great quantities, and no more than is absolutely necessary should be raised, as they are a scourging crop, as well as lint. One acre of turnips will produce more food for cattle, than two acres of potatoes.*.

Heritors, Church, School, &c.—There are 3 heritors, and 1 feuer. The principal heritor resides occasionally. Mr. Lockhart of Carnwath is patron.—The living, (or more properly the *starving* †), is 55l. 11s. 1½d. Indeed, much cannot be expected, as the rental does not exceed 700l.; and there are 5 parochial churches, and 2 dissenting meeting houses, within 3 miles of the church of Symington ‡. The church was repaired in 1761, and the manse rebuilt in 1790.—The schoolmaster's salary is 8l. 6s. 8d. He has taught for these 50 years, with such fidelity and unwearied perseverance, as, in some lines of life, would have loaded him with riches and honour.

Poor.—The funds for the provision of the poor, are the weekly collections, (which, at an average, amount to 6l. per annum), and the interest of 100l., gradually raised by

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the

* The price of labour has, of late, increased according to the rapid progress of manufactures. A ploughman, who was formerly hired at 5l., now demands, and gets, 8l. a year; and the wages of all labourers, mechanics, &c. are raised, nearly in the same proportion.

† The present incumbent is married, and has six sons and one daughter. He was admitted in 1783.

‡ Kirks have been planted, and parishes marked out, without rule or judgment; for there are many parishes more numerous, and many much more extensive than these six conjoined. This is an old grievance, and ought to be redressed, before any new object of reform be taken into consideration.

the joint contributions of the inhabitants, without the smallest assistance from the heritors. These have hitherto supplied all demands, and none were ever known to beg. The elders are so attentive to the distressed, that they have seldom any occasion to call for assistance; and there is no distinction made, whether they belong to the Establishment or not. Besides supplying the ordinary poor, the kirk-session are always ready to accommodate industrious persons, who have met with any unforeseen misfortunes, or who are unable to work, with small sums, to be returned on a change of circumstances. This practice is attended with happy consequences, not only to the persons thus relieved, but to the public; and it is found to be a most effectual method of advancing the interest of virtue and industry.

Population.—The population has increased within these 40 years.

STATISTICAL TABLE of the PARISH of SYMINGTON.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|-----|
| Number of individuals, - | 307 | Number of weavers and their | |
| Return to Dr. Webster, in 1755, 264 | | apprentices, - | 26 |
| | | shoemakers, - | 2 |
| | | dancing masters, - | 1 |
| | | coopers, - | 1 |
| | | maçons, - | 3 |
| | | blacksmiths, - | 2 |
| | | wrights, - | 1 |
| | | tailors, - | 2 |
| | | hecklers, - | 1 |
| | | millers, - | 1 |
| | | schoolmasters, - | 1 |
| | | clergymen, - | 1 |
| | | day labourers, - | 5 |
| | | work horses, - | 44 |
| | | young ditto, - | 30 |
| | | cows, young and old, 255 | |
| | | sheep, - | 343 |
| | | Number | |
| Increase, - | 43 | | |
| Number of males, - | 152 | | |
| females, - | 155 | | |
| Burgher Seceders, - | 8 | | |
| Relievers, - | 18 | | |
| persons under 10, - | 76 | | |
| from 10 to 20, - | 77 | | |
| 20 to 30, - | 47 | | |
| 30 to 40, - | 37 | | |
| 40 to 50, - | 27 | | |
| 50 to 60, - | 20 | | |
| 60 to 70, - | 14 | | |
| 70 to 80, - | 8 | | |
| 80 to 90, - | 2 | | |
| Total, - | 307 | | |

| | | | |
|------------------------------|----|--------------------------------|-----|
| Number of swine, - - - | 7 | Acres sown with turnips, - - | 32 |
| —— carts, - - - | 44 | Houses built within the last 8 | |
| —— ploughs, - - - | 14 | years, - - - | 7 |
| —— harrows, - - - | 44 | —— rebuilt, - - - | 9 |
| Acres planted with timber, - | 80 | Cattle fed on turnips, - - | 35 |
| —— sown with grass seeds, - | 66 | Sheep fed on ditto, - - | 100 |

Character.—The virtues of sobriety and industry, and a regular attendance on divine institutions, are no where more strictly observed. The people live comfortably, are contented with their situation, and well affected to the established constitution, in church and state*.—An attempt was made, at the beginning of the Secession, to settle a dissenting congregation in Symington, and many violent harrangues were delivered, on the *spots* and *blemishes* of the backsliding generation, and on the *errors* and *corruptions* of the church †.—The dissenters are

* The only grievance which they complain of, is the trifling tax on *births*. Every country parish has its philosophers, politicians and divines. These leaders of the people make their observations on every thing that passes; and their remarks are sometimes shrewd and sensible. They apprehend, that, instead of *paying a duty* on the birth of a child, the parents should *receive a reward*, and have privileges and immunities granted to them, according to the number of their children. But their chief objection is on the score of religion. Connecting births with *baptism*, it is considered as a tax on that ordinance. Viewing it in this light, the idea, of *paying for the sacrament*, is, of all others, the most impious and profane. It is supposed to imply a contempt of all the blood that has been shed in the protestant cause, and as giving freedom to the *keaf*, with the *seven beads and ten horns*, to trample the memory of the old covenanters under his feet.

† As a specimen of the spirit and eloquence of those times, the following part of a prayer, for the established minister of the place, is kept in remembrance, as uttered by one of the preachers on the green, after a discourse, in which he and his brethren were represented in the blackest colours:—"Thou knowest that the silly snivelling body is not worthy even to keep a door in thy house.

"Cut

are now of a very different spirit. To their praise be it spoken, they are the sons of peace and order; and have, by their decent and moderate conduct, acquired a very high degree of respectability. As an evidence of their moderation, such as reside here attend divine worship in the parish church occasionally, without scruple of conscience or dread of censure. They shew the utmost civility to the incumbent, and ask him to visit their families and sick, which is done with the same care and attention, that is paid to the rest of the flock.

“ *Extraordinary Cure of Canine Madness.*—There is a plowman living in the parish, named *Andrew Shanky*, who was bitten by a mad dog in April 1783. The circumstances of the case, and the manner of the cure, being singular, and well authenticated, the relating them may lead to some important discovery, in this hitherto unexplored region of medical science *. No suspicion of madness was entertained at the time when the dog bit the man’s hand; accordingly little regard was paid to it, though it bled considerably. The business, in which he was about to be employed, was driving lime; and an hour and a half elapsed before he arrived at the lime kiln. He says, that the evening was very cold; and the unslacked hot lime, blown by the wind, fretted the wound so much, that he was obliged to wipe it frequently. Next day, being Sunday, the same dog bit the other dogs about the house, and several cows, belonging to the farmer whom
Shanky

“ Cut him down as a cumberer of the ground; tear him up, root and branch,
“ and cast the wild rotten stump out of thy vineyard. Thresh him, Lord, and
“ dianna spare! O thresh him tightly, with the flail of thy wrath, and mak’ a
“ strae wisp o’ him to flap the mouth of hell!”

* It is said to have been the opinion of the late Sir JOHN PRINGLE, that no cure had yet been found for the bite of a mad dog, and probably never would.

Shanky was serving ; and likewise a mastiff belonging to a carter, who was passing by on the Monday. The farmer began to take some precautions. Accordingly, the dog was chained down in a separate house, where he refused food, and died in a few days. The other dogs attempted, some time after, to bite people. The mastiff turned mad, and was killed.—Shanky says, that his mind was now filled, day and night, with the most dreadful apprehensions, and he laid his account with the most horrible kind of death. In three weeks, one cow was seized with the disease, and the others soon after, till 10 of them died. He says, that the cattle foamed at the mouth ; their sides went like a pair of bellows ; their dung became of the consistency and colour of tar, and their hind legs failed, so that they fell down and died. The family, being interrogated on the subject, agree exactly with Shanky ; and as he, and John Barclay, in the parish of Lamington, whom he was serving at the time, are men of undoubted veracity, no matter of fact can be better ascertained ; and there is no question but the hot lime from the kill operated the cure.

NUMBER

NUMBER XL.

PARISH OF ALLOA.

(County of Clackmannan—Presbytery of Stirling—Synod of Perth and Stirling.)

Drawn up from the Communications of the Rev. Mr. JAMES FRAME, and of JOHN FRANCIS ERSKINE, Esq. of ALLOA, Representative of the MARR Family.

Origin of the Name.

THE name, like most other places, has been variously spelt. In the charter granted by King Robert, in the 9th year of his reign, (anno 1315), to *Thomas de Erskyne*, it is spelt *Alway*; and, in some subsequent ones, *Aulway*, *Auleway*, and sometimes *Alloway*. Camden, in his *Britannia*, seems to think it the *Alauna* of the Romans*. He says,
 “ Ptolemy

* When the Romans crossed the Forth, it seems probable, that it was either by the ford of Manor, a small creek, about 6 miles higher up the water than Alloa, or at the ford of the Frook, which is only a mile and a half from it. There are vestiges of a Roman causeway, running into the river at Manor; and it is only within these 13 or 14 years, that the remains of a small *castrum*, for protecting the passage, have been totally defaced. In 1774, a sword, or dagger, of a composition resembling brass, was taken up in a salmon net, between the ford of Frook and Manor. It had on its point a piece of a human skull. It appeared to be of Roman workmanship; and seems to confirm the opinion, that this part of the river had been frequented by the Romans, as a passage from the south to the north. This dagger was presented by Mr. ALEXANDER COLDSTREAM, schoolmaster at Crieff, (into whose hands it fell, when schoolmaster at Alloa), to the Society of Antiquarians in Perth.

“ Ptolemy places Alauna somewhere about Sterling ; and it
 “ was either upon *Alon*, a little river, that runs here into the
 “ Forth, or at *Alway*, a feat of the Erskines†”

Situation.—Alloa is a port in the county of Clackmannan, situated on the north side of the river Forth, west long. $3^{\circ} 45''$ lat. $56^{\circ} 10'$. It is about $27\frac{1}{2}$ miles higher up the frith than Leith, and 17 lower down the river than Stirling. The windings of the Forth, between Stirling and Alloa, are very remarkable ; the distance, from the quay of Alloa, to the quay of Stirling, measured in the centre of the river, is 17 miles, and to the bridge of Stirling it is $19\frac{1}{2}$ miles ; whereas the distance, by land, from Alloa to the bridge of Stirling, does not exceed 7 miles, though the turnings in the road are numerous. It is the most considerable port in the river ; for the upper part of the Frith of Forth begins at Kennet Pans and Higgins Neuk.—There are $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet greater depth of water, in the harbour of Alloa, than on the bar of Leith.

Extent, and Soil.—The parish is, on an average, about 4 miles from E. to W. and about 2 miles from N. to S. It consists of about 3,900 acres. It is bounded on the south by the Forth ; and the bend of the river is so great, that the banks measure about $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The grounds, on the banks of the Forth, are flat, and of a very
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† It might seem whimsical to derive the name of Alloa from the Greek, and yet there are several circumstances, which might tend to justify that conjecture. *Allos* was a rural feast of the Athenians, which was adopted by the Romans, and answered to our *harvest home*. It was also used to signify a grove, or fruitful plain, well adapted to the celebration of such a feast. If we suppose, that the Romans made good their passage across the Forth, about the time of harvest, we may easily conjecture that they should conceive the idea of celebrating their harvest feast, at a time which they thought propitious to their wishes, especially in a situation peculiarly fitted for that purpose ; and hence they might very naturally affix to that place the name of *Allos*.

rich *carfe*, or *kerse* soil. . Those on the banks of the Devon, are a good *carfe* or clay, though not quite so fertile. The grounds rise pretty suddenly from the *carfes*, and are of a light kind, but fertile. Towards the centre of the parish, the grounds are pretty high. They are most agreeably diversified; but the land is much inferior in quality.

Town and Tower, &c.—The situation of the town is pleasant. There are strata of rock, that run a considerable way between the *kerse* and the high grounds, and break off about the Ferry, a little above the harbour. On part of this rock is built the Tower, and the ancient part of the town of Alloa.—The Tower is the residence of the representatives of the family of MARR, and is now possessed by a grandson of the late Earl; who has repaired the house, and made great improvements on the land. It was built prior to the year 1300. The highest turret is 89 feet from the ground, and the thickness of the walls is 11 feet. Notwithstanding its being situated on a flat, there is a most uncommonly fine rich prospect, from the top of the Tower; and 9 counties can be discerned from it. The gardens, which were laid out by the late Earl, in the old taste, of long avenues, and clipped hedges, are considerably modernized; and the large lawn is now dressing up; so that the many fine trees in it will be shewn to advantage. There was originally a natural wood to the eastward, and the greatest part of it still remains. All kinds of trees, thrive remarkably well; and there are oaks, beeches, elms, planes or sycamores, limes, and ashes of considerable circumference. There is an uncommon fine black poplar, that measures $13\frac{1}{2}$ feet round, at the height of 3 or 4 feet from the ground. The town formerly almost surrounded the tower, as in the rude ages they afforded mutual benefits to each other. Within these 30 years, many old houses, situated near the tower,
have

have been purchased by the family. Most of the streets are narrow and irregular*.

Harbour, Dock, and Ferry.—At the end of this walk, is the harbour of Alloa, where, at neap tides, the water rises from 12 to 15 feet, and at spring tides from 17 to 22. The quay is built of rough hewn stone, in a substantial manner; and runs within the land, and forms a *pow*, or small creek, where the rivulet, that runs through the N. E. end of the town, falls into the river. There is an act of parliament, that lays a small duty on the anchorage, for support and improvement of the harbour; and this last year, the trustees of this fund have considerably widened the *pow*.—A little above the harbour, there is an excellent dry dock, capable of receiving vessels of great burthen; both from the depth of the water, which is 16 feet at spring tides, and the width of the gates, which is 34½, free of all obstructions. Opposite to the dock, there is a great depth of water, with excellent anchorage, and full room to swing the largest vessel. As the dock has no connection with the harbour, nor is situated near any buildings, the crews of the vessels that are repairing can cook on board.—Above the dry dock there is a ferry, which is sometimes called the *Craig Ward*, and sometimes the *King's Ferry*, where two very complete piers have been built, one on each side of the river; which renders it an easy, safe, and

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commodious

* The late Earl seems to have been particularly attentive to the healthiness of the town, and to have endeavoured to make the streets broader, and as straight as the irregularity of the former ones would admit of, so as to unite them. He built one street on a regular plan. It runs in a line parallel to the gardens. It is called *John's Street*, and leads to the harbour. It is between 76 and 80 feet broad, and terminates in a beautiful gravel walk. A row of lime trees, on every side, affords an agreeable shade in summer, and a comfortable shelter in winter.

have been foreseen ; however, they continued, though with small advantage, till a law-suit was carried on against them by the town of Stirling ; and the mode of pock nets being condemned, on an old act of parliament, they were restrained within certain limits, from fishing in that manner ; and the fishing, since that time, has been mostly abandoned §.—After passing the ferry of *Graig Ward*, the river becomes narrower ; and there are some beautiful islands, which are called *Inches*. These furnish excellent pasture for cattle during the summer, and are esteemed medicinal for such as are weakly or sick. They are a gentle kind of salt marsh, as they are entirely covered with water in spring tides. These Inches are frequented by great quantities of water fowl, viz. wild ducks, seals, widgeons, gulls, &c. &c. Here they find shelter, and a variety of food suited to their nature. Sometimes scarts, or cormorants, goosanders, &c. appear here. The stormy petrels, or what the sailors call *Mother Cary's chickens*, were seen about the Ferry last winter ; and one of them was killed by Mr. Erskine, junior. It was thought singular to see these birds, who seldom appear near the land, so far up the country. Upon the point of these inches, they erect what are called *yars*, a sort of scaffold projecting into the water ; upon which they build little huts to protect them from the weather ; from these scaffolds they let down, at certain times of the tide, their nets, and are often very successful in taking the smaller fish, such as herrings, *garvies*, or sprats, *sparlings*, or smelts, small whittings, haddocks, sea trouts, and eels. In this manner sal-

mon

§ Had this restraint operated as it ought to have done, and obliged them to have exchanged their method, and employed the long nets, the best effects would probably have followed. The excuse generally given for not trying it, is the depth of water, and foulness of the bottom. The last, it is thought might be partly remedied ; and the success which attends this method, a little farther west, and in the same parish, gives great encouragement to make the experiment.

mon are sometimes caught; as well as Congo eels, sturgeon, soals, turbot, cod, gurnet, or piper, and skate.*—Sometimes, about the end of September, there comes a vast shoal of fish, called *gandanooks*, or *Egyptian berrings*. They have a faint resemblance of the mackerel, but with a long sharp bill, like a snipe. This becomes fatal to them on our muddy banks, as the bill is fixed in the mud; and in this way they are entangled, and caught in great quantities, on the ebbing of the tide. They are not an unpleasant fish, but rather dry; they are however a great relief to many poor people. Porpoises now and then appear here, and sometimes small whales have been seen and taken †.

Tullibody.—In proceeding up the river, we come to the barony of Tullibody. The house is set down in the Carse, almost close to the water side. Behind it, on the north, there is a beautiful bank, well furnished with a variety of fine trees; and on each hand of this bank, almost at equal distances from the house, there are two prominences, jutting out into the Carse, which seem to protect and shelter the lower grounds. The one on the east is covered with trees; and the one on the west with some farm houses.

Rivers, Fish, &c.—In the front of the house is the river, with two of the Inches formerly mentioned. From this, up
to

* In September 1777, a skate, of the species of the sharp nosed ray, was caught here, which was of a very large size. The length, from the tip of the nose to the end of the tail, was 7 feet 3 inches; the breadth, from the extremity of one fin to that of the other, 5 feet 3 inches; and it weighed 13½ stones Dutch weight, which is about 2½ cwt. avoirdupoise.

† About 2 years ago, an *angler*, or *fibbing frog*, was thrown ashore at the Ferry. It is a fish of a very uncommon appearance, resembling a frog in its sadpole state. They sometimes grow to a large size, and are thought to be a great enemy to the dog fish.

to the *Cambus*, they continue to fish with tolerable success. General Abercromby now lets the fishing for 40l. per annum, which formerly only gave 5l. Upon the west, and not a mile from the house of Tullibody, the river Devon discharges itself into the Forth; and vessels of tolerable burden can load and unload, at a pier, built at the mouth of the Devon. Sloops and large boats, loaded with grain, come up near to the village of Cambus, to supply the mills, and a brewery, and to carry off the manufactures of both. A high dam-head, erected for driving the corn and barley mills on each side of the river, forms a great obstruction to the salmon getting up the Devon. They are seen often attempting this, but they seldom succeed, except in high tides. An oil mill has lately been erected on this river, which is said to perform a great deal of work. On the other side of the Devon, there is a rich flat piece of ground, called *West Cambus*, belonging to Lord Alva. It consists of 160 acres of ground, which is let in two farms, one of which has the corn mill. The tenants pay kain, cefs and school-master's salary, over and above their rent. The lands of Ban-death, Kerrie, and part of the Frosk, which all lie on the other side of the Forth, are bound and thirled to the mill of *West Cambus**.—*West Cambus* is bounded by the parish of Logie,
both

* Some years ago, between the Cambus and the Frosk ford, there was dragged up a brass collar, with this inscription on it: "ALEXANDER STEUART, found guilty of death for theft, at Perth, 5th December 1701, and gifted by the Justiciars, as a perpetual servant to Sir JOHN ABERCROMBY of ALVA." This collar is now in the possession of the Antiquarian Society of Scotland, with the following copy of the justiciar's gift, which is taken from the original in the Duke of Atholl's charter house:

"At Perth, the 5th day of December 1701. The commissioners of Justiciary of the south district, for securing the peace in the Highlands, considering that Donald Robertson, Alexander Stewart, John Robertson, and Donald M'Donald, prisoners within the tolbooth, and indicted and tried at this Court,
"and,

Tullibody†, or what are called the *Carse* and *Dryfield*, contain about 1,100 acres. The tenants pay *kains* and cefs, and are obliged to carry their farm barley 6 miles, if required ;

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but

troops on the coast of Fife, they were alarmed with the arrival of the English fleet, and thought of nothing but a hasty retreat. It was in the month of January, and at the breaking up of a great storm. William Kirkcaldy of Orange, attentive to the circumstances in which the French were caught, took advantage of this situation, and marched with great expedition towards Stirling, and cut the bridge of Tullibody, which is over the Devon, to prevent their retreat. The French, finding no other means of escape, took the roof off the church, and laid it along the bridge where it was cut, and got safe to Stirling. It is generally believed, that this church remained in the same dismantled state till some years ago, that George Abercromby, Esq. of Tullibody, covered it with a new roof, and erected within it a tomb for his family. There is still a large burying ground round this church ; and on the north side of it, where there had been formerly an entry, there is a stone coffin, with a niche for the head, and two for the arms, covered with a thick hollowed lid, like a tureen. The lid is a good deal broken ; but a curious tradition is preserved of the coffin, viz. " That a certain young lady of the neighbourhood had declared her affection for the minister, who, either from his station, or want of inclination, made no returns ; that the lady sickened and died ; but gave orders not to bury her in the ground, but to put her body in the stone coffin, and place it at the entry to the church." Thus was the poor vicar punished ; and the stone retains the name of the *Maiden Stone*.

† On the east end of the village and crofts, there was a large rugged piece of ground, upwards of 140 acres, formerly let at 40l. Scotch, or 3l. 6s. 8d. Sterling. Between 60 and 70 years ago, it was inclosed, and planted with firs. When they were between 40 and 50 years of age, they were cut, and sold at from 30l. to 60l. per acre ; and the ground is now planted with oaks, which are in a very thriving condition.—Immediately on the east of this wood, there is a rising ground, in the upper barony of Alloa, called *Lorn's Hill*, probably from its being the spot where the Marquis of Lorn encamped, when in pursuit of the Marquis of Montrose in the civil wars. Mr. Erskine, about 14 years ago, built a farm house and good offices on it. It was formerly a dreary and uncultivated waste, though the grounds were beautifully varied. Mr. Erskine has humoured the lying of the ground, in forming his inclosures and clumps, and belts or strips of planting ; so that it is at present a pleasant spot, and will, in a few years, become a very agreeable *ferme ornée*.

important purposes, for which the large reservoir was originally made, the same water is again collected into a smaller dam, and from thence conveyed in a lade, to a fine set of mills in the town of Alloa, for grinding wheat, oats, and malt, and making pearl barley. There are two large wheels, of 19 feet diameter, in the centre of the house, which drive the whole machinery in both ends of the mills. Though all the mills are seldom employed at the same time, they can be wrought, on a great exertion, and are capable of grinding 400 bolls, about equal to 250 quarters, in a day*.—From these mills the water falls into a rivulet, that runs through the town, and drives a snuff and falling mill; it then passes through Mr. Erskine's pleasure grounds, till it comes near the harbour; where it is again confined by a strong dam of earth; and a large sluice is built in it, of hewn stone, with a long trough of stone, which gives the water a prodigious velocity, for clearing the harbour of the mud: so that this little water, originally a small branch of the Black Devon, (fed only by a few springs, and the surface water), is made to serve the most important purposes, by driving 7 mills, within this parish, besides cleaning the harbour.

Agriculture.—About 20 years ago, the husbandry of this parish was uncommonly bad, particularly in the barony of Alloa†. On the expiration of the *tacks* (leases), a great change

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* These mills have been erected within these 10 years. The building is 93 feet long, over walls, 31 feet broad, and 32 high. The machinery alone cost 500*l.* and is uncommonly well executed. From the time the foundation stone was laid, it was not quite 12 months before the mills began to work; and, notwithstanding the great stress upon such new walls, they were so well built, that there is not the smallest crack to be observed.

† The farms were small, and the miserable *steadings* (the old phrase for a farm house and offices), denoted the poverty of the tenants, who relied solely on the driving

in this parish. The last erected was by a farmer, who has only 60 Scotch, or 76 English acres of ground; and as improvements are daily making in them, and the price is reduced, it is probable that, in a very short time, they will be held to be as indispensibly necessary to a farm as the fanners*.

There is no particular rotation or course of crops universally followed here. The turnip husbandry cannot be well adopted, as the low grounds are carse, or rich clay, and most of the higher grounds have a subsoil, of a cold stiff till (or barren clay); so that the damage done, by poaching the ground, in taking off the crop, overbalances any advantage, that could possibly accrue from the cultivation of that useful root, so beneficial to farmers, in a more favourable soil †.—The following rotation is practised by some of the farmers, on carse lands: The 1st year, fallow; the 2d, wheat; the 3d, beans; the 4th, barley and grass seeds; the 5th, hay; the second crop cut for soiling horses and cattle in the house; then broke up in the 6th year for oats. Sometimes a crop of hay is taken in the 6th, soiling, &c. and then it is broke up in the 7th year for

riod may be dated the excellent plowing that appears in this small county; and as many places, in distant parts of the country, have followed the example, it is to be hoped, that they have reaped equal benefit from it. The name, therefore, of HUGH REACH, of the *Hiltown of Alled*, deserves to be gratefully remembered by every lover of agriculture.

* The threshing machines, or mills, were first introduced into common use in this small county, Mr. GEORGE MEIKLE having erected one that went by water, at Kilbagie, in the neighbouring parish of Clackmannan, in 1787. It was Mr. Meikle, who erected the machinery of the mills of Alled.

† Those who attempted turnips have been obliged to give them up, as well as the sowing of wheat on a clover lay; for whether it got 1, 2, or 3 plowings, a light brown grub worm destroyed the root of the wheat. This misfortune might possibly be overcome, if a large quantity of hot lime were laid on the clover just before it is plowed up. This, however, is only conjecture, as no sufficient trial has yet been made of it.

PRODUCE on the INFERIOR SOILS, commonly called DRYFIELD.

| <i>Per Scotch acre.</i> | WHEAT. | <i>Per Eng. acre.</i> | <i>Per Scotch acre.</i> | PEASE. | <i>Per Eng. acre.</i> |
|-------------------------|--------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Bolls.</i> | | <i>Quar. Bush.</i> | <i>Bolls.</i> | | <i>Quar. Bush.</i> |
| 8, medium crop, = | | 3 1½ | 5, medium crop, = | | 2 1½ |
| BARLEY. | | | HAY. | | |
| 6½, ————— = | | 4 2 | <i>Stones, from weight.</i> | <i>Avoird. weight.</i> | |
| | | | 200 medium crop = | 1 ton 12 cwt. | |
| OATS. | | | | | |
| 6½, ————— = | | 4 3 | | | |

The QUANTITY of SEED.

| Per Scotch acre. | WHEAT. | Per Eng. acre. | Per Scotch acre. | OATS. | Per Eng. acre. |
|----------------------|--------|----------------|----------------------|-------|----------------|
| Firlots, Pecks. | | Bush. Pecks. | Firlots, Pecks. | | Bush. Pecks. |
| 4 0, about equal to | | 3 1 | 4 0, nearly equal to | | 4 3 |
| 3 0 = | | 2 0½ | 3 2 = | | 4 1½ |
| BARLEY. | | | | | |
| 3 0, nearly equal to | | 3 2½ | | | |
| 2 3 = | | 3 1½ | | | |

EXTENT of FARMS FORMERLY.

| Scotch acres. | | Eng. acres. |
|----------------|----------|-------------|
| From 30 or 40, | equal to | 38 or 51 |
| To 60 or 70, | = | 76 or 89 |

FORMER RENT of CARSE LANDS.

From 20s. to 24s. equal to from 15s. 8½d. to 18s. 10½d.

FORMER RENT of INFERIOR LAND, or DRYFIELD.

From 3s. to 4s. or 5s. equal to from 2s. 4½d. to 3s. 11½d.

EXTENT of FARMS at PRESENT.

| Scotch acres. | | Eng. acres. |
|----------------|----------|----------------|
| From 60 to 90, | equal to | from 76 to 114 |
| — 120 to 160, | = | — 152 to 203 |
| — 200 to 260, | = | — 254 to 457 |

PRESENT RENT of CARSE LANDS.

From 30s. to 40s. equal to from 23s. 7d. to 31s. 6d.

PRESENT RENT of INFERIOR LAND, or DRYFIELD.

From 10s. to 21s. equal to from 7s. 10½d. to 16s. 6½d.

Formerly

Implements of Husbandry.—There is now scarce one of the old awkward carts to be met with†. The farmers, at present, use large carts, with iron axles, drawn by two horses; and, in hay or harvest time, they have large open bodies to fit the same wheels, in which they carry great loads, frequently from 90 to 100 stone iron weight, (which is nearly from 18 cwt. to a ton avoirdupoise), of well made hay. However, what was asserted by the late Lord Kames, in his *Gentleman Farmer*, that “a well constructed one-horse cart, is the most profitable carriage,” seems now to be almost generally acknowledged; and the farmers here will probably adopt them very soon. Since the two-horse ploughs have become general, the breed of horses used by the farmers is considerably improved. Formerly, they had miserable *garrans*, not worth more than 5l. or 6l. a piece; now, it is no uncommon sight to see, in a farmer’s plough, horses which are worth from 36l. to 48l. the pair. The ploughs now used are chiefly of *Small’s* construction, with an iron head and cast iron mould board. They cost from 2l. to 2l. 10s. according to the weight of the iron.

Servants.—All the principal farmers here prefer *married*
VOL. VIII. 4 H servants,

bondage of services, so universally imposed on the old tenants of Scotland, as it seems to have rendered them almost incapable of becoming farmers. They seem to have been only fitted for servants; and, did not their pride prevent them, they would enjoy more comfort and happiness as day labourers. This observation is at least just with regard to this parish.

† Formerly, all the implements of husbandry used here were ill constructed. Some years ago, it was a rarity to find a farmer with *spoke and nave wheels* to his cart. The carts in common use, consisted of a few boards ill put together, and of a size not larger than a good wheel barrow, placed upon a thick wooden axle, which was fixed to some low wheels, composed of 3 pieces of wood, joined together by two or three large wooden pins. The axle turned round with the *tambriel* wheels.

servants, as being more steady, orderly and tractable. The farmer provides him a house as near to his own as possible. It is much to be wished that this custom was more universal, as it is a most beneficial one to the country. It is, in fact, having cottagers on the very best establishment; for the ancient kind of cottars were but too often miserably oppressed by the tenants, on whose farms they were established; as they often exacted their services more rigorously, than the landlords did from the tenants. But as the ploughmen, in this district, receive their stated fee (or wages), kitchen money and meal, and pay only 10s. or 12s. for their cottages, (though indeed they generally have them *gratis*), besides their masters' horses drawing home their coals for them, no oppression can well take place. They have also the advantage of having their wives, and such of their children as can work in the fields, always at hand, who receive the common wages during hay-making and harvest; and are likewise often employed in picking stones off the land, and pulling or cutting down weeds. All this is of considerable benefit, both to masters and servants, and tends to rear up an useful, healthy generation of labourers.

Sale of Grain.—There is not the smallest resemblance of a public market for grain, within the parish or county; but the farmers find no difficulty in disposing of their crops by private bargain. The most substantial sell their grain, by the highest price of the Mid Lothian, or the Haddington fairs; that is, they give two or three months credit to the purchaser, at the price which is the average of the year. Smaller tenants sell their grain, for the current price at the time of their delivering it.

Hay.

Hay.—The collieries in the neighbourhood use a considerable quantity of hay : Their usual price is 4d. per stone ; and the hay is weighed, at the place where it is stacked to be used. Some of the farmers have found out their mistake, in deferring the cutting of their hay till late in the season, thinking, by so doing, to increase the quantity. It does so indeed to the eye ; but in reality it is quite the reverse : For hay, cut at the proper time, retains all the seed in it, and therefore it weighs considerably heavier, and has more nourishment in it ; and the second crop of grass is earlier, and more plentiful. Besides, it does less damage to the ground ; so that the greedy farmer cheats himself in every respect. Few, or almost no farmers, consume any quantity of hay themselves ; but this will probably come in course, as their knowledge improves ; for though much has been done, and that rapidly too, there are yet many *arcana*, in this pleasant art, that the farmers have still to learn.

Sheep, Cattle and Manure.—There are few or no sheep kept in the parish ; nor is there much anxiety about the breed of cattle. There is little or almost no attention paid to the Dairy, although milk, in all its shapes, would find a good and steady sale in the town of Alloa. Some, who have kept an exact account of the sale of this article, are of opinion, that 6l. or 7l. might be easily made of a cow in the year. —The farmers are diligent in procuring manure from the town of Alloa ; but the quantity would be considerably enlarged if the streets were properly cleaned. Few farmers have limed to any extent, though the practice is creeping in. There is no limestone in the parish ; but it is brought, both burnt and unburnt, from Lord Elgin's limeworks at Charlestown, near Limekilns. The price of the slacked lime, delivered at the shore of Alloa, is about 7d. the wheat boll (Lin,

ral, are apt to form opinions from local circumstances, and to apply them indiscriminately to all situations. What appears a large farm, in some parts of the country, would be called a moderate one, nay perhaps a small one, in others. It is an undoubted fact, that in this parish, until the farms were enlarged, husbandry was at a very low ebb. Any one, who remembers the grounds in their former state, and who sees them now, cannot but acknowledge the different appearance that the country makes. Formerly, the miserable tenants had wretched accommodation for their families, or produce of their fields or cattle; ragged children, with scanty education; and wretched complaints of poverty at every term. There are now substantial houses, and convenient offices; a double, and often a triple produce; fields beautifully dressed and inclosed; a wealthy tenantry, and growing improvements*.

Coal.

acres), a large one; and thinks that few or none should exceed it. Large farms, some people maintain, depopulate the country, and occasion the rise of all kinds of provision, &c. &c.; but there are others who hold a very different opinion; and, if we may be allowed to judge by analogy, with some appearance of reason. It is allowed, that no trade can be carried on to advantage without a sufficient stock; that the division of labour, and large dealings, enable people to sell at a less profit, as the quantity sufficiently recompences for the lowness of the price. Why should the farming trade totally differ from all others? A certain size of a farm is absolutely necessary to carry on the business with any prospect of success. In those parts of Britain, where improvements have been carried on to the greatest extent, were they brought about by large or small farms? Examine them minutely, and see where the greatest skill is displayed, or the largest produce brought to market.

* The leases are commonly given for 19 years; but where the ground was so wild, that it required a tedious and expensive process for the melioration of it, 19 years were given, with a small rise of rent at the commencement of the second period. This is thought to be no more than equitable. Many gentlemen, who have tried improving ground themselves, are thoroughly sensible, that the best part of a 19 years tack passes away before any adequate profit can be received for the expence laid out; and the farmer, who, from his knowledge and skill, adds to the stock of the community, is certainly entitled to ample retribution.

Coal.—The colliery of Alloa having been long established*, there are still many ancient customs in it. The colliers could not leave their work; of course some recompence † was necessary from the master. As the colliers in this work generally bind themselves for a certain term of years, little alteration has taken place in this old custom, notwithstanding the new collier law, which passed in 1775 ‡. The colliers, in all countries, are generally an unruly set of labourers; and those of this work were like their neighbours. About 30 years ago, they were persuaded to give some little education to their children; and a few years after (when in search of a new schoolmaster for them), the proprietor of the colliery was lucky

* This parish has been long famous for the fine coal mines in it. How long they have been wrought is uncertain. There are accounts of the expence of working them in 1623. The price was then 6s. 8d. per chalden. The same measure has been sold at a considerably lower price within these 35 years.

† The allowance given to the old collier, when past labour, was two pecks of meal per week, each weighing 8 lb. Dutch, or 8 lb. 11 oz. avoirdupoise; and he had his free house and garden, and likewise his firing, continued to him, the same as when working. Every widow had one peck of meal per week, a free house, &c. &c.; and if she had any sons grown up, who were able to carry on their father's work at the coal wall, they continued at it, for behoof of the family, as they did in their father's lifetime, until they were married.

‡ There were some parts of the old law which were barbarous, and which undoubtedly required to be abolished; but it is questioned, whether the total repeal of it has made the collier happier, or if it has had the effect of inducing common labourers to commence colliers, or to train up their children to the business, as was said to be the expectations of the promoters of it; nor is the price of working coal reduced. It is well known to all coalmasters, that a collier can never earn so much in any work, as in that in which he was brought up. The present law has unhappily encouraged vagrancy amongst the colliers; and, whenever they begin to wander, they generally bid farewell to industry. On going to a new place, they constantly, on some pretence or other, get money. And as the collier has broken all ties of relationship and habits, his head is continually on the rack to contrive some method to shift his place, in hopes of getting more money from a new master, without working for it.

lucky enough to find an old serjeant of the Royals, a diligent virtuous man, who not only brought the children, but even their parents, into some kind of order and discipline. This has greatly assisted the present proprietor, who, during the residence of 21 years, has paid particular attention to the colliers, and has now the pleasure of seeing a very great reformation among them. They were formerly remarkable for their ignorance and dissoluteness of manners. They are now rather above the ordinary rate of the common people*. Each collier has a free house and garden, a quantity of meal proportioned to the number of the family, at the rate of 10½d. per peck, and their firing: Each family, upon an average, consumes rather more than 7 cwt. per week. The colliers are paid by the piece; their earnings, therefore, depend on their own diligence and skill. The price of working varies according to the quality of the different seams of coal. A good collier can clear from 25l. to 35l. per annum; an extraordinary clever one may perhaps exceed this by 10l. or 12l. The depth of a bearing pit cannot well exceed 18 fathom, or 108 feet. There are traps, or stairs, down to these pits, with a hand rail to assist the women and children, who carry up the coals on their backs. The price given by the colliers is 4d. per chalders, of 30 cwt. A diligent bearer often brings up, from the bottom of the pit, 6 chalders, or 9 tons of coal in the week†. When the pits exceed the depth that bearers can carry

* They have a fund, like other friendly societies, for burying their dead, paying their schoolmasters, assisting those that are ill, and giving a small trifle annually to the widows. There are 4 *bailies* intrusted with the management of this fund. The principal one is appointed by the proprietor of the work, for 7 years; the 3 others are annually chosen by him, from a list of 9 given into him by the colliers. They hold courts, to take cognizance of any dispute or misbehaviour in the colliery, and exact fines from the offenders, which are thrown into the general fund.

† The weight which a good bearer can carry, is very great. Some years ago,

carry up the coal, the collier's price is reduced, as the master is obliged to draw them up by gins, which is either wrought by horses, or driven by water. The water gin, which has been in use here for these 70 or 80 years, is a most ingenious simple machine *. There are two collieries in the barony of Alloa, the oldest of them, called the *Alloa Pit*, is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile distant from the shore; the other is the *Collyland*, and is about double that distance. There are various seams in each colliery; some of 3, 4, 5 and 9 feet in thickness. They dip to the N. E. about 1 in 6 or 7.

The pits are free of all noxious damps, and have in general a good roof and pavement, although there are iron stones over some of the seams. The engine pit of the Alloa coal is about 48 fathom deep; and the coal is drained by a water engine, there having been a large reservoir of water collected (as has been already mentioned), for that purpose, about the beginning of the century, as the steam engine was then but lately invented,

ago, the proprietor weighed a piece of coal, that a *lane* woman had brought out of a pit, 12 fathoms deep, and was astonished to find it full 2 cwt. Another woman carried an uncommon large piece of coal, from the mouth of the pit to the overseer's house, a distance of 400 yards; and, by the measure of this piece of coal, it must have weighed 3 cwt.

* It is a wheel of 18 feet diameter, and appears as if two wheels were joined together, with the buckets of the one reversed from those of the other. The axle is 39 inches diameter, to which the rope that draws up the tubs, or corves, is fixed. There is a cistern placed over the wheel, divided in the middle. Each division has a valve, exactly over the centre of the different buckets, which valve is opened by a slider moved from the bottom; so that when the wheel turns round, it draws up the tub, or corve, of coals, weighing 6 cwt. and lets down the empty one, on shutting the valve of those buckets, and opening the other, the corve that has just been emptied is let down, while a fresh corve full of coals is brought up.—The late Mr. Brown, the famous engineer and operative coal-master at Newcastle, was so struck with it, when he was at Alloa in 1774, that he took a drawing of it; and, on his return to Newcastle, contrived one on the same principles, to answer for their deep pits.

invented, and not well known in Scotland. The engine pit of the Collyland is about 46 fathom deep; and the coal is drained by a steam engine, supposed to be one of the best of the old construction. This was erected in 1764*.

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* It has often been asserted, that there have been more estates lost than made, (especially in Scotland) by working coal mines. There probably has been some foundation for such an assertion. The expences of winning and keeping up a colliery are considerable, and the commodity will not bear a great price; so that it is only a large quantity, that can produce a profit adequate to the expence. While the coals of the barony of Alloa were brought to the shore in small carts by the tenants, the quantity was uncertain, and often not very considerable. In 1768, a waggon way was made to the Alloa pits, which proved to be so great an advantage, that it induced the proprietor to extend it to the Collyland, in 1771. The sales were by these means increased, from 10,000 or 11,000 chalders, to 15,000 or 16,000. In 1785, the Alloa waggon way was worn out, and required to be renewed. This was done on a new plan; and it is now acknowledged to be the most complete in Britain. A description of it may therefore be thought useful.

The sleepers are very broad, and only 18 inches from centre to centre. A rail of foreign fir, 4 inches square, is pinned down to them; and another rail, of the same dimensions, is laid over it, and the whole well beat up in good clay; on the top of the upper rail is laid a bar of malleable iron, of $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches breadth, and nearly six-8ths thick. The waggons have cast iron wheels, $27\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, and are supposed to weigh altogether about a ton. A waggon carries 30 cwt. of coals, and 3 waggons are linked together by chains; so that 1 horse draws $4\frac{1}{2}$ tons of coal at once; and the declivity of the way is so gentle, that the same horse draws with ease the 3 empty waggons back to the coal-hill. The advantage of putting the weight into 3 waggons, in place of 1, is very considerable: They are easier to fill and empty; and the throwing the weight over a greater surface, does less damage to the waggon way, and is likewise easier for the horse: as it is well known, that almost the only stress a horse has, on a good waggon way, is in the first starting of the waggon; therefore, if the whole $4\frac{1}{2}$ tons were put into one waggon, the difficulty would be great; but as the waggons

The large coal sent to sea is sold at the shore, from 8s. 6d. to 9s. per chaldcr, of 30 cwt. The smaller coals, which are called *cbaws*, are sold on the coal-hill, for 13d. per cart † of 6 cwt.—The coal of the barony of Alloa is thought to be the farthest west of any coal north of the Forth.—The colliers prefer working in the night time; some go into the pits between 8 and 9, and others again later. Those who are anxious, on any particular occasion, to draw a large sum on the Saturday, continue a very long time at their work: The usual time is from 10 to 12 hours. The men are, in general, rather of a low stature, though there are some of them 6 feet. Many of the young women are pretty. On Sundays and holidays, both men and women are clean and neatly dressed. They eat considerably

gonas, when standing still, are close to one another, and the chains that link them together are 2 feet long, the horse has only 20 cwt. of coals to put in motion; for, when he starts the first waggon, the impetus of it, if it does not actually move, at least greatly assists in moving the second and third. The first expence of making this kind of waggon way, is undoubtedly great, being at least 10s. per running yard; yet the proprietor has been long ago reimbursed, and is a considerable gainer; for although this road has been made these 6 years, it has required no repair worth mentioning, and it is now near as good as when first laid.

† About 35 years ago, this kind of coal was sold for 6d. The price has risen gradually as the demand has increased. The consumption of coal in Scotland is considerably greater than formerly; which is probably owing, in some measure, to the improvements of agriculture, &c. the country people having learnt to estimate the value of their time; and, by calculating how much is consumed in making peats, they find, that coals, though brought from a great distance, is a cheaper, as well as a pleasanter fuel.—The effect that any extraordinary distress in the country has, on the sale of coal, is very evident. On the shock that credit received, by the great failures in 1772, the sale of coals, at this port, diminished one third; and it was 4 years before the usual demand took place: And the consequences of the miserable crop in 1782, were felt, pretty nearly in the same manner, in 1783.

considerably more meat than other labourers, and are, on the whole, a happy race of people. They are generally healthy; few of them, however, work at the coal wall after 63 years of age; but they are able to do some easy work below ground, for many years after that time of life. The women live longer than the men.

The following tables may be depended on as particularly exact. The account of the births and burials are taken from the books of the collier's fund.

TABLE I.

Shewing the Number of MALES and FEMALES in the COLLIERY of ALLOA, at all Ages, in 1780.

| Years of age. | Males. | Females. | Years of age. | Males. | Females. | Years of age. | Males. | Females. | Years of age. | Males. | Females. |
|---------------|--------|----------|---------------|--------|----------|---------------|--------|----------|---------------|--------|----------|
| At 1 | 5 | 6 | At 22 | 5 | 2 | At 43 | 1 | 1 | At 64 | 1 | 2 |
| 2 | 14 | 16 | 23 | 2 | 6 | 44 | 1 | 2 | 65 | 0 | 1 |
| 3 | 8 | 4 | 24 | 6 | 6 | 45 | 1 | 3 | 66 | 1 | 0 |
| 4 | 9 | 7 | 25 | 2 | 1 | 46 | 2 | 1 | 67 | 1 | 1 |
| 5 | 2 | 4 | 26 | 5 | 9 | 47 | 3 | 4 | 68 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | 9 | 10 | 27 | 0 | 3 | 48 | 4 | 9 | 69 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | 6 | 16 | 28 | 4 | 5 | 49 | 2 | 2 | 70 | 3 | 1 |
| 8 | 2 | 6 | 29 | 2 | 1 | 50 | 1 | 2 | 71 | 1 | 0 |
| 9 | 7 | 9 | 30 | 1 | 4 | 51 | 0 | 1 | 72 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | 6 | 5 | 31 | 2 | 2 | 52 | 2 | 2 | 73 | 1 | 0 |
| 11 | 6 | 6 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 53 | 1 | 2 | 74 | 0 | 2 |
| 12 | 7 | 8 | 33 | 3 | 1 | 54 | 0 | 0 | 75 | 0 | 1 |
| 13 | 6 | 4 | 34 | 3 | 2 | 55 | 2 | 1 | 76 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 | 5 | 7 | 35 | 1 | 4 | 56 | 0 | 2 | 77 | 0 | 1 |
| 15 | 6 | 5 | 36 | 5 | 5 | 57 | 1 | 2 | 78 | 2 | 1 |
| 16 | 5 | 6 | 37 | 3 | 4 | 58 | 3 | 1 | 79 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 | 5 | 4 | 38 | 2 | 3 | 59 | 2 | 1 | 80 | 1 | 1 |
| 18 | 7 | 3 | 39 | 2 | 1 | 60 | 2 | 1 | 81 | 0 | 1 |
| 19 | 6 | 6 | 40 | 3 | 4 | 61 | 0 | 2 | | | |
| 20 | 5 | 3 | 41 | 2 | 1 | 62 | 1 | 1 | | | |
| 21 | 1 | 1 | 42 | 1 | 1 | 63 | 2 | 4 | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | 227 | 248 |

TABLE IV.

Shewing the Numbers of BIRTHS and BURIALS, in the COLLIERY of ALLOA, during the following Years.*

| Years. | BIRTHS. | BURIALS. | | | Total. |
|---------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| | | Children. | Youths. | Aged. | |
| 1782 | 18 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 10 |
| 1783 | 16 | 6 | 0 | 5 | 11 |
| 1784 | 15 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 15 |
| 1785 | 13 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 9 |
| 1786 | 13 | 4 | 0 | 6 | 10 |
| 1787 | 22 | 25 | 4 | 9 | 38 |
| 1788 | 22 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 14 |
| 1789 | 26 | 11 | 1 | 3 | 15 |
| 1790 | 26 | 12 | 0 | 2 | 14 |
| 1791 | 14 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 13 |
| Totals, | 185 | 94 | 13 | 42 | 149 |
| Avera. | 18 5-10ths | 9 4-10ths | 1 3-10ths | 4 2-10ths | 14 9-10ths |

Some of the colliers have left the work between the years 1780 and 1791, and perhaps a few have come into it; but the variations are certainly not greater, than what happens in most parishes, which have the same number of souls. The increase, by the above tables, is 3 and 6-10ths per annum;

Which, in 11 years, amounts to 39.6-10ths. } Number by numeration 514.6-10ths
 Number in 1780, - - 475 } ——— in 1791, - 520
 Difference, - 5.4-10ths

Manufactures.—Formerly this parish was famous for manufacturing tobacco; but it is long since it lost its reputation for that article; although there is still a little snuff made here. For a long time the camblet branch took the lead, and was considered as the staple manufacture. It is in the neighbourhood of the wool of the Ochils; and the young people were

* N. B. Within this period there was one still birth, which is not taken notice of, either in the births or burials.

the woollen branches, in the village of Tullibody. The inhabitants of all the villages, at the foot of the Ochils, are disposed to the like employments; and, from their long and early habits, these stations seem proper for seconding the efforts of the woollen manufacturers.

The *linen* manufactures, of every denomination, carried on here, are mostly for home consumption, and generally according to the taste and fancy of private families.—Of late, *muslin* looms, with fly shuttles, have been set up, and do a great deal of business. The webs are sent, ready warped, from Glasgow, and the cloth is returned. Eight or 10 looms are already employed, and there is a demand for 20 more; as there seems to be here, as well as in other places, a growing spirit for these cotton branches.

A *Foundry*, upon a small scale, has been for some time established here. The metal was generally brought from Carron, and employment given in casting waggon wheels, pots of different sizes, and other small articles in that way.—There are a few *nailers* here, and manufacturers of other branches of *iron* work, * for the shipping.—There is a very ingenious man, who makes large portable *still-yards* for weighing cattle, carts, &c. He has been employed at Dundee and Greenock, for erecting public ones, which have given great satisfaction; and the demand for them seems to be increasing.—There are a few *rope-makers* here. There are likewise some good wrights † (carpenters), in all branches.—There is a *ship-builder*,

* The late EARL of MARR was very assiduous in procuring the best tradesmen to settle at Alloa. There was a remarkable good smith then fixed here. *Still-yards* and *beams* were particularly well executed. Ever since his time, there has been a succession of good hands in that branch.

† There is a native, a cabinet-maker, who returned here, (where he has a small property), about 24 years ago, after having been long in London. He

builder, who bears a very good character, and has a very ingenious young man, a son, breeding under him.

Markets, Prices of Provisions, &c.—There are 4 stated annual fairs in Alloa, viz. on the second Wednesdays of February, May, August and November; and 2 weekly markets, on Wednesday and Saturday. The manner of living, of all ranks of people in Scotland, is considerably changed within these 30 years. In 1763, there were but 4 bakers in Alloa, 2 of whom had but little employment: There are now 14. Some of them carry on a pretty extensive trade. The mode of living, probably, has more affected the wages of labourers, &c. than the price of grain, though that must have some influence on them. In order to judge of this, the following prices of the fairs are given. It is much to be regretted, that there is not some such method fallen on, to record the prices of meat, &c. at 4 different times of the year:

MID-LOTHIAN

was reckoned one of the best journeymen there. And it deserves to be mentioned, that in one of the first shops in London, where 80 hands were employed, 3 of the very best were born in this parish. And a young man, who served his apprenticeship with the above mentioned cabinet-maker here, is now foreman in a very principal cabinet warehouse in London.

MID-LOTHIAN FIARS.

| Year. | WHEAT. | | BARLEY. | | OATS. | | WHEAT. | |
|-------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| | Per Boll. | Per Quarter. | Per Boll. | Per Quarter. | Per Boll. | Per Quarter. | Per Boll. | Per Quarter. |
| 1706 | 14 3 3 | 1 7 5 | 12 5 8 | 0 16 5 | 9 5 6 | 12 5 2 | 10 3 1 | 11 0 2 |
| 1715 | 15 5 3 | 1 9 8 | 12 10 4 | 0 17 0 | 9 9 6 | 12 11 7 | 11 0 2 | 11 0 2 |
| 1740 | 13 7 7 | 1 6 2 6 | 11 3 8 | 0 14 11 | 9 2 4 | 12 1 9 | 10 4 10 | 10 4 10 |
| 1754 | 13 8 7 | 1 6 4 6 | 11 2 8 | 0 14 10 | 9 2 2 | 12 1 4 | 10 7 5 | 10 7 5 |
| 1760 | 14 5 6 | 1 7 8 9 | 11 9 6 | 0 15 6 9 | 9 8 4 | 12 9 7 | 11 1 6 | 11 1 6 |
| 1773 | 17 4 6 | 1 13 5 3 | 13 4 7 | 0 17 7 11 | 11 7 6 | 15 4 8 | 13 1 6 | 13 1 6 |
| 1790 | 20 3 2 | 1 19 3 3 | 15 2 6 | 1 0 1 | 12 5 3 | 16 6 | 14 3 8 | 14 3 8 |

CLACKMANNANSHIRE FIARS*.

| Year. | WHEAT. | | BARLEY. | | OATS. | | WHEAT. | |
|-------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| | Per Boll. | Per Quarter. | Per Boll. | Per Quarter. | Per Boll. | Per Quarter. | Per Boll. | Per Quarter. |
| 1740 | 13 2 11 | 1 3 11 6 | 9 8 3 | 0 12 1 6 | 8 2 4 | 10 3 | 9 2 11 | 10 3 11 |
| 1754 | 12 11 10 | 1 3 4 | 10 0 4 | 0 12 6 4 | 8 1 11 | 10 2 | 9 7 10 | 10 3 11 |
| 1760 | 13 9 2 | 1 4 10 3 | 10 10 10 | 0 13 7 9 | 8 7 4 | 10 9 3 | 10 3 11 | 10 3 11 |
| 1773 | 16 7 9 | 1 10 0 6 | 13 10 | 0 17 3 7 | 10 9 9 | 13 6 | 12 7 8 | 13 6 |
| 1790 | 19 1 8 | 1 14 6 9 | 16 2 1 | 1 0 5 3 | 12 8 10 | 15 14 | 14 2 2 | 14 2 2 |

* The fiars of Clackmannanshire are only recorded since 1712. The prices set down opposite to the years, are the average prices of the 25 preceding them.

although many farmers engage women to shear (reap) for them in harvest; but then they are engaged by the day, or half day, according as they are employed. Almost any number can be got, at a short notice, from the town of Alloa; and it is no uncommon sight to see 60, 80, or 100 reapers in one field. Of late, there have been undertakers for cutting down a farmer's crop, at 5s., 5s. 6d., or 6s. per acre, according to the apparent ease or difficulty of the work.

Poor.—The number of poor, who were formerly obliged to accept of constant assistance, was but few, while those who stood in need of occasional aid were numerous; and yet the kirk-session*, besides paying for the education of many young people, have been able to lay up money against any uncommon calamity.

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* The Legislature, in 1597, placed the care of the poor in the Kirk-Session, which is an ecclesiastical court. They have esteemed this a most important trust; and have accordingly regarded it as their duty, to be perfectly well acquainted with the situation and disposition, of those who apply for relief; and assisted them in proportion, from the collections made at the church doors, and other small dues payable to the session; which were, for the most part, found sufficient for the purpose. Under such attentive and careful management, the act, 1672, was, for the most part, found unnecessary; and therefore, it is believed, was never put in practice in any parish, until the hard winter of 1740. By this act, "the heritors, ministers and elders of every parish, were required to make a list of all the poor within the parish, to liquidate a yearly sum for their maintenance; the one half to be paid by the heritors, the other half by the other householders." In 1740, some counties and particular parishes, in order to oblige absent heritors, to contribute their share towards assisting the poor in their distress, began to enforce it; and most of them have ever since followed that method, although it has brought on some few disputes about settlements, and other disagreeable circumstances attendant on all rates. But the greater part of the country most happily continued to intrust the management of the poor to the kirk-session; and it may therefore be fairly presumed, that most of the kirk-sessions in Scotland have been as attentive to this important part of their duty, as the session of this parish; who have executed their trust, for this century past, most faithfully and judiciously.

Statistical Account

An average Account of the Parish Funds of Alloa, and of the Number of Poor afflicted by them, taken every 15 Years, from 1700 to 1790, with the average Price of Meal.

| | Amount of the Collections | Total of the Receipts. | Number of names on the roll. | THE ORDINARY POOL. | | Number of occa- sional Poor. | Total number of Poor. | Total of Disbursements. | Strangers. | PRICE OF MEAL | |
|---------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | | | Affluence per Head. | Total affluence given. | | | | | Per Edinh. Piastre. | Per Clackm. Piastre. |
| From 1691, | <i>l. s. d. 1246</i> | <i>l. s. d. 1246</i> | | <i>l. s. d. 1246</i> | <i>l. s. d. 1246</i> | | | <i>l. s. d. 1246</i> | | <i>l. s. d. 1246</i> | <i>l. s. d. 1246</i> |
| 18 11 9 10 | 45 8 7 10 | 47 8 7 10 | 10 0 13 4 9 | 6 14 0 | 57 67 | 39 12 11 6 | 38 11 4 | 0 0 | | | |
| 1701 to 1715, | 38 8 3 1 | 49 19 4 2 | 16 0 13 8 2 | 10 18 10 8 | 76 101 | 46 7 3 4 | 29 10 1 1 | 0 0 | | | |
| 1716 to 1730, | 49 19 4 2 | 102 0 8 5 | 24 0 15 11 4 | 19 2 8 6 | 77 101 | 86 10 7 3 4 | 34 10 4 1 | 9 1 5 | | | |
| 1731 to 1745, | 44 18 7 2 | 95 10 0 2 | 28 0 17 2 6 | 24 2 0 1 | 79 107 | 89 12 8 2 | 29 9 8 | 9 0 10 | | | |
| 1746 to 1760, | 42 7 10 3 | 99 8 9 6 | 19 0 16 10 4 | 16 0 4 4 | 76 95 | 100 18 10 | 9 11 6 | 10 10 | | | |
| 1761 to 1775, | 56 14 8 11 | 123 8 8 | 20 0 13 10 5 | 13 3 2 4 | 93 113 | 125 16 7 6 | 17 14 1 10 | 13 11 | | | |
| 1776 to 1790, | 59 3 8 5 | 112 3 8 | 112 1 14 6 6 | 180 2 2 9 | 36 147 | 210 13 7 6 | 13 9 7 | 13 7 10 | | | |

The

The account of the poor, from which this abstract is taken, affords many particulars worthy of observation ; but it is too voluminous for this work. In general, the number of poor seems to have increased, when the price of meal was high ; but although the price was soon reduced, it was 2 or 3 years before the numbers returned to the common average ; and in some years the poor were numerous, although the price of meal was moderate.

The collections at the church doors prove the propriety of that method of gathering alms. The diminution that began to take place in them about 1734, was probably occasioned by the secession from the church, as the collection at the meeting-house was never taken, (although the law would have allowed this to be done), the funds must consequently have suffered. The assistance given to the paupers, on the ordinary list, in 1691, was 16d. per month. This, at first view, will appear very inadequate ; and yet there is no tradition of the poor having been neglected, or of their suffering greater distress than at present. About the year 1720, a greater allowance was given in extraordinary cases ; but the 16d. per month still continued the usual assistance till 1776, when applications for assistance from the kirk-session became more frequent and pressing ; so that the minister was induced to apply to the heritors, and the rest of the parishioners, for some enlargement of the funds, and an aid to prevent strolling beggars from preying on the parish ; when an annual contribution was cheerfully agreed to, and liberally subscribed for. Most of the occasional poor, at that time, were thought proper objects to be put on the ordinary list. Such of the poor as are put on the ordinary list, are obliged to subscribe a writing, making over to the heritors, and kirk-session, all their little clothes and moveables, which, at their death, are sold for the increase of the fund. This is intended to cut off all improper appli-

cations for charity from those who can support themselves. Those, whose distress or misfortunes require the public aid, are put on the occasional (or temporary) list; and remain longer or shorter according to their distress.

This fund is managed by a committee of the subscribers, chosen every half year, by the heritors and kirk-session: At the same time, every contributor is welcome to attend the monthly meetings, and to give information or advice. The regular care and attention, that has been paid by the committee, will be seen by the subjoined table.

A particular

A particular Account of the Number of the ordinary and occasional Poor in the Parish of Alloa, and the Assistance given to them per Annum, taken on an Average of 15 Years, from 1776 to 1790.*

of Alloa.

[2]. 630

| | Total assistance given. | | Aver. assist. per Head. | | Average of Males. | | | | Average of Females. | | | | Aver. of Child. | | | Grand Total | Aver. of the assist. per Head. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-----|-------------------------|-------|-------------------|-----------|----------|-------|---------------------|----------|----------|-------|-----------------|-------|-------|-------------|--------------------------------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|----|---|-----|
| | l. | s. | d. | 12ths | Married | Bachelors | Widowers | Total | Married | Spinners | Widowers | Total | Boys | Girls | Total | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ordinary } Poor, } Occasional } ditto, } | 111 | 180 | 2 | 29 | 14 | 9 | 8 | 11 | 4 | 12 | 28 | 2 | 14 | 9 | 35 | 13 | 87 | 1 | 15 | 7 | 15 | 14 | 31 | 6 | 146 | 14 | 1 | 4 | 6 |
| | 36 | 30 | 11 | 5 | 14 | 14 | 1 | 10 | 5 | 13 | 22 | 7 | 14 | 14 | 9 | 14 | 20 | 5 | 45 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 10 | 7 | 77 | 7 | |
| | 147 | 210 | 13 | 79 | 29 | 8 | 10 | 6 | 10 | 50 | 9 | 29 | 8 | 45 | 8 | 57 | 3 | 132 | 4 | 20 | 8 | 23 | 5 | 41 | 13 | 224 | 6 | | The |

* The price of meal, taken on the average of these 15 years, is 3s. 7d. 10-14ths, per the Clerkmanan fiart, and 13s. 9d. 7-12ths, according to the Edinburgh fiart.

The usual allowance given to a pauper, on the ordinary list, is 3s. per month. This allowance, though it may appear scanty to such as have never thought on the subject, is rather ample, when compared with that given in 1691. Meal was then almost the only food of the poor; and the price of it, taken on an average of 25 years, was, by the Mid-Lothian fiars, 11s. per boll, or 8½d. per peck. The wages of a labourer was then from 5d. to 6d. per day. They now get from 10d. to 1s.; and in all probability they get more constant employment; and the price of meal, by the same fiars and average, is 14s. 3½d. per boll, or 10½d. per peck. Nor do the poor any longer depend solely on meal for their food, as that most agreeable and nourishing root, the potatoe, is every where raised in great quantities, and is happily become the "sustenance of the poor, and luxury of the rich*." The medium price of it here is from 4d. to 4½d. per peck, weighing full 20 lb. Dutch weight, about equal to 21½ lb. avoirdupois. It is to be lamented, however, that this blessing does not lessen the number of applications for aid from the parish: On the contrary, they are becoming more frequent; and receiving parish assistance is no longer looked on, by the poor themselves, or even their relations, with that horror it was formerly. When the receiving parish supply comes to be regarded as a common occurrence, it is obvious, that the poor's rates† will become general in Scotland, unless the greatest attention is paid by all ranks of people to prevent it. The management of the poor is a most difficult business. It is certainly the wish of every benevolent person, to relieve their wants as far as possible; but to establish rates, is creating a burden on the industrious, without giving relief to the pauper.

Climatt,

* Vide Somerville's Fable of the Two Springs.

† The laws of assessment for the maintenance of the poor, not having been universally put in practice in Scotland, have made many people

Climate, Diseases and Longevity.—Although the town of Alloa lies low, it is allowed to be pretty healthy. The epidemical diseases of fevers, small pox, &c. carry off fewer than in the neighbouring parishes. Agues are now scarcely ever heard of. Its situation by the side of a great river, where the regular flowing of the tide is attended with a strong current, serves to purge away the damp, and to give a freshness and purity to the air. Though it is not remarkable for the longevity

people imagine that there are no laws extant concerning that part of the police. The fact is, that they are very similar to those of England (*vide* Dr. M'FARLAN'S *Inquiries concerning the Poor*), and differ only in a few points, such as an inattentive reader may conclude are of no great consequence; and yet those little differences have probably prevented the burden, from becoming as heavy, in those parts of Scotland, where the poor's laws are enforced, as they are in England.

The *kirk-sessions*, being a corporate body, are joined with the heritors, as the administrators of the poor's funds. The *minister* and *treasurer* generally know the circumstances, and character, of every individual that applies to them; and, by constant attention, become perfect masters of the business, and pride themselves on executing their trust most faithfully. Whereas in England, the church wardens, and overseers of the poor, to whom this trust is committed, are chosen annually; so that, by the time they have learned the business, they are removed; and whatever good regulations they may have made, their successors, through ignorance, or design, either alter or neglect them. Nor can it be supposed, that any annual office, which, though very troublesome and disagreeable, is not looked on in the most favourable light, will be attended to with diligence by any individual, if he sees little chance of his best intentions being of any service; but, it is more than probable, he will endeavour to pass it over, with as little trouble or vexation as possible. And the power of assessment lies entirely in the church wardens and overseers; as it is no longer considered, that the concurrence of the inhabitants, for making a rate, is at all necessary. Though the law requires that the overseers, &c. should have the consent of two justices, it has become a mere matter of form; † for, when justices have refused their consent, the Court of King's Bench has compelled them to allow the rate. But in Scotland, the heritors must meet with the kirk-session, before any assessment can be laid on the parish; and this obliges them (especially as they must pay one half of the assessment), to be attentive to the management of the poor's funds.

* *Vide Burn's Justice, Edit. 15th, Vol. III. page 574.* † *Ibid, page 538*

gevity of its inhabitants, yet there are not wanting many instances of long life. Some years ago, a man, in the labouring line of life, died at the age of 101. Within these few weeks, an old soldier died, who, from his age in the muster roll 1746, must have been 103. A woman of the colliery died, about 5 or 6 weeks after the preceding list was taken, aged 92. There are many old people on the poor's roll; in particular one woman past 90. There are 5 men and 5 women now living, who are past 80; and there are 13 men, and 20 women past 70*.

Population.—The following tables of births are extracted from the register of baptisms; and although this may not be perfectly

* There is an instance of longevity, which is too remarkable to be passed over unnoticed, viz. GEORGE ABERCROMBY, Esq. formerly of TULLIBODY, now of BRUCEFIELD, who is a native of this parish, and was born in the year 1705. Notwithstanding his great age, he is still in good health, and enjoys life and the company of his friends in a surprising manner. He is in perfect possession of all his faculties; and though he sometimes complains of his sight and hearing, evidences the same acuteness of judgment, that distinguished him in his younger years. He can relate facts, of an early date, with great accuracy, and apply them with uncommon sagacity to present occurrences. This deserving old gentleman is greatly respected by all his acquaintance, and has been singularly fortunate in his family. His eldest son, GENERAL ABERCROMBY of TULLIBODY, to whom he has made over his estate in this parish, now commands part of the British forces in Holland. His second son, GENERAL SIR ROBERT ABERCROMBY, is governor of Bombay, and commander in chief of the forces in Bengal. Having lately commanded one of the armies against TIPPOO SAIB, his Majesty has rewarded his services, by creating him a Knight of the Bath. His third son is LORD ABERCROMBY, one of the senators of the College of Justice, whose appointment to that important office gives general satisfaction. His daughters are most respectably married; and, what is still more, he sees the rising generation treading in the footsteps of the former: General Abercromby's eldest son is now accompanying Lord Elgin in his embassy: His second is a captain in India: And all this singular prosperity, the worthy old gentleman lives to see, to enjoy, and to give God the PRAISE.

perfectly exact, yet there is no appearance, that the omissions of any one period differ greatly from those of another; and it must be observed, that the number of boys and girls are nearly equal. The progressive average more readily points out the rise and fall, than could be seen from a comparison of 25 years, from 1668 to 1692, with the same number of years, from 1693 to 1717.

An ACCOUNT of the Number of BAPTISMS of MALES and FEMALES, in the Parish of ALLOA, extracted from the public Register, from the Year 1668 to 1790; with a PROGRESSIVE AVERAGE of 25 Years.

| Years. | Boys. | Average. | Girls. | Average. | Total. | Average. | Years. | Boys. | Average. | Girls. | Average. | Total. | Average. |
|--------|-------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|-------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|
| 1668 | 41 | | 45 | | 86 | | 1694 | 55 | 52 | 64 | 46 | 119 | 99 |
| 69 | 35 | | 26 | | 61 | | 95 | 62 | 53 | 69 | 47 | 131 | 100 |
| 1670 | 52 | | 41 | | 93 | | 96 | 65 | 54 | 50 | 48 | 115 | 102 |
| 71 | 46 | | 33 | | 79 | | 97 | 47 | 53 | 51 | 48 | 98 | 102 |
| 72 | 59 | | 35 | | 94 | | 98 | 54 | 53 | 53 | 49 | 107 | 102 |
| 73 | 51 | | 43 | | 94 | | 99 | 40 | 53 | 44 | 49 | 84 | 103 |
| 74 | 51 | | 29 | | 80 | | 1700 | 43 | 53 | 33 | 49 | 76 | 102 |
| 75 | 49 | | 51 | | 100 | | 1 | 48 | 53 | 45 | 49 | 93 | 103 |
| 76 | 30 | | 36 | | 66 | | 2 | 63 | 54 | 59 | 49 | 122 | 103 |
| 77 | 51 | | 50 | | 101 | | 3 | 56 | 54 | 56 | 50 | 112 | 104 |
| 78 | 40 | | 50 | | 90 | | 4 | 54 | 54 | 58 | 50 | 112 | 105 |
| 79 | 52 | | 45 | | 97 | | 5 | 47 | 54 | 50 | 50 | 97 | 104 |
| 1680 | 52 | | 54 | | 106 | | 6 | 58 | 54 | 52 | 51 | 110 | 105 |
| 81 | 56 | | 37 | | 93 | | 7 | 48 | 54 | 52 | 51 | 99 | 105 |
| 82 | 52 | | 48 | | 100 | | 8 | 55 | 54 | 54 | 51 | 109 | 106 |
| 83 | 58 | | 36 | | 94 | | 9 | 53 | 54 | 48 | 51 | 101 | 106 |
| 84 | 51 | | 46 | | 97 | | 1710 | 51 | 54 | 55 | 52 | 106 | 106 |
| 85 | 54 | | 46 | | 100 | | 11 | 62 | 54 | 57 | 52 | 119 | 106 |
| 86 | 58 | | 48 | | 106 | | 12 | 59 | 54 | 65 | 53 | 124 | 107 |
| 87 | 59 | | 44 | | 103 | | 13 | 63 | 54 | 60 | 53 | 123 | 108 |
| 88 | 51 | | 51 | | 102 | | 14 | 57 | 55 | 58 | 53 | 115 | 108 |
| 89 | 43 | | 62 | | 105 | | 15 | 52 | 55 | 74 | 54 | 126 | 109 |
| 1690 | 42 | | 57 | | 99 | | 16 | 52 | 55 | 62 | 54 | 114 | 109 |
| 91 | 59 | | 64 | | 123 | | 17 | 81 | 56 | 71 | 55 | 152 | 111 |
| 92 | 65 | 65 | 31 | 44 | 96 | 95 | 18 | 66 | 55 | 73 | 56 | 139 | 112 |
| 93 | 75 | 75 | 56 | 44 | 131 | 96 | 19 | 63 | 56 | 75 | 56 | 138 | 113 |

| Years. | Boys. | Average. | Girls. | Average. | Total. | Average. | Years. | Boys. | Average. | Girls. | Average. | Total. | Average. |
|--------|-------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|-------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|
| 1720 | 76 | 56 | 71 | 56 | 147 | 113 | 1756 | 63 | 57 | 56 | 55 | 119 | 113 |
| 21 | 73 | 56 | 62 | 57 | 135 | 114 | 57 | 53 | 57 | 55 | 55 | 108 | 113 |
| 22 | 64 | 57 | 78 | 58 | 142 | 116 | 58 | 52 | 56 | 55 | 55 | 107 | 112 |
| 23 | 67 | 58 | 69 | 58 | 136 | 117 | 59 | 57 | 56 | 54 | 55 | 111 | 112 |
| 24 | 61 | 59 | 55 | 59 | 116 | 118 | 1760 | 47 | 56 | 55 | 56 | 102 | 112 |
| 25 | 61 | 59 | 42 | 60 | 103 | 119 | 61 | 77 | 57 | 62 | 56 | 139 | 114 |
| 26 | 51 | 59 | 46 | 60 | 97 | 119 | 62 | 71 | 58 | 70 | 56 | 241 | 115 |
| 27 | 64 | 59 | 58 | 60 | 122 | 119 | 63 | 67 | 58 | 59 | 57 | 126 | 116 |
| 28 | 56 | 59 | 55 | 60 | 111 | 119 | 64 | 82 | 59 | 74 | 58 | 156 | 119 |
| 29 | 59 | 60 | 48 | 59 | 107 | 119 | 65 | 57 | 59 | 71 | 59 | 128 | 120 |
| 1730 | 57 | 60 | 40 | 59 | 97 | 119 | 66 | 70 | 61 | 68 | 60 | 138 | 121 |
| 31 | 70 | 60 | 57 | 59 | 127 | 120 | 67 | 67 | 62 | 65 | 61 | 132 | 124 |
| 32 | 54 | 61 | 58 | 59 | 112 | 120 | 68 | 84 | 63 | 79 | 62 | 163 | 126 |
| 33 | 67 | 61 | 54 | 59 | 121 | 121 | 69 | 58 | 63 | 76 | 63 | 134 | 126 |
| 34 | 62 | 61 | 52 | 59 | 114 | 121 | 1770 | 74 | 64 | 78 | 63 | 152 | 128 |
| 35 | 58 | 62 | 58 | 59 | 104 | 121 | 71 | 82 | 65 | 63 | 63 | 145 | 129 |
| 36 | 54 | 61 | 62 | 59 | 116 | 121 | 72 | 70 | 65 | 75 | 64 | 145 | 130 |
| 37 | 41 | 61 | 55 | 59 | 96 | 120 | 73 | 88 | 66 | 66 | 64 | 154 | 131 |
| 38 | 70 | 61 | 47 | 59 | 117 | 120 | 74 | 63 | 60 | 77 | 65 | 140 | 131 |
| 39 | 51 | 61 | 35 | 58 | 86 | 119 | 75 | 88 | 66 | 74 | 65 | 162 | 132 |
| 1740 | 50 | 61 | 49 | 57 | 99 | 118 | 76 | 84 | 67 | 65 | 65 | 149 | 133 |
| 41 | 37 | 60 | 36 | 56 | 73 | 116 | 77 | 72 | 68 | 57 | 66 | 129 | 134 |
| 42 | 49 | 59 | 53 | 56 | 102 | 114 | 78 | 77 | 69 | 84 | 67 | 161 | 135 |
| 43 | 50 | 58 | 50 | 54 | 106 | 113 | 79 | 74 | 69 | 69 | 67 | 143 | 136 |
| 44 | 55 | 58 | 65 | 54 | 120 | 112 | 1780 | 80 | 70 | 79 | 67 | 159 | 137 |
| 45 | 56 | 57 | 65 | 53 | 121 | 111 | 81 | 100 | 71 | 75 | 68 | 175 | 140 |
| 46 | 56 | 57 | 53 | 53 | 109 | 110 | 82 | 93 | 73 | 68 | 68 | 161 | 142 |
| 47 | 57 | 56 | 58 | 52 | 115 | 109 | 83 | 70 | 74 | 65 | 69 | 135 | 143 |
| 48 | 69 | 56 | 63 | 52 | 132 | 109 | 84 | 65 | 74 | 73 | 70 | 138 | 144 |
| 49 | 73 | 57 | 62 | 52 | 135 | 109 | 85 | 103 | 76 | 75 | 70 | 178 | 147 |
| 1750 | 69 | 57 | 61 | 53 | 130 | 111 | 86 | 81 | 76 | 68 | 71 | 149 | 147 |
| 51 | 53 | 57 | 58 | 53 | 111 | 111 | 87 | 72 | 77 | 68 | 71 | 140 | 147 |
| 52 | 54 | 57 | 56 | 53 | 110 | 111 | 88 | 91 | 78 | 86 | 72 | 177 | 149 |
| 53 | 65 | 57 | 62 | 54 | 127 | 111 | 89 | 92 | 78 | 74 | 72 | 166 | 150 |
| 54 | 61 | 57 | 62 | 54 | 123 | 112 | 1790 | 74 | 79 | 90 | 72 | 164 | 151 |
| 55 | 61 | 57 | 72 | 55 | 133 | 113 | | | | | | | |

The

* * The decrease that appears, from 1739 to 1744, was probably owing to the Sceders neglecting to register their children's names. We are now enabled, from the *Parliamentary Register* (which is kept here with care), to furnish a pretty correct list for 8 years (preceding 1792), of marriages and births. As the lists of marriages were always esteemed pretty exact, 20 years have been taken, and compared with the 8 years preceding 1792, which we call the *Parliamentary Register*, from its being kept in consequence of the act of parliament in 1784.

The amount of these 20 years is 876; average, 43, and 4 fifths.

The amount of the last 8 years is 349; average, 43, and 5 eighths. This wonderful coincidence makes it evident, that there can be little error.

The births, in 8 years, 1,226; average, 153, and 1 fourth.

The deaths, in ditto, 1,170; average, 146, and 1 eighth.

The deaths in 1787 are remarkable; no less than 249; about 100 of which were children, carried off by the small pox. Fevers and fluxes proved very fatal that year.

The following tables of enumeration are thought to be particularly exact. They were all taken by the same man ; who, in each of them, set down the names of every head of a family.

An Account of the Population of the Parish of Alloa, taken in 1784.

| Divisions | Families | Souls | Divisions | Families | Souls |
|------------------------------------|----------|-------|-------------------------|----------|-------|
| Alloa, Coal Bridge and Glas-Houfe, | 1042 | 3482 | Village of Tullibody, - | 71 | 290 |
| Country, - - - - - | 97 | 536 | Ditto of Cambus, - | 42 | 178 |
| Colliery, - - - - - | 126 | 539 | The whole parish, - | 1378 | 5035 |

An Account of the Population, taken in 1788.

| Divisions | Houses | Famil. | Males | Femal. | Total | Burghers | Antibur. | Episcopals |
|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|-------|--------|-------|----------|----------|------------|
| Town of Alloa, - - - - - | 381 | 906 | 1531 | 1779 | 3310 | 308 | 425 | 29 |
| Coal Bridge, - - - - - | 4 | 15 | 29 | 26 | 55 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Glas-Work, - - - - - | 13 | 36 | 76 | 81 | 157 | 15 | 4 | 14 |
| Total in the town of Alloa, &c. - | 398 | 957 | 1636 | 1886 | 3522 | 323 | 434 | 43 |
| Country, - - - - - | 89 | 89 | 283 | 275 | 558 | 14 | 32 | 9 |
| Village of Tullibody, - - - - - | 70 | 87 | 340 | 198 | 538 | 40 | 20 | 0 |
| Ditto of Cambus, - - - - - | 18 | 38 | 74 | 97 | 171 | 13 | 26 | 0 |
| The Colliery, - - - - - | 134 | 143 | 258 | 319 | 577 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| — The whole parish, - - - - - | 700 | 1314 | 2391 | 2775 | 5166 | 392 | 512 | 52 |

Custom-house, &c.—The public revenue, and matters of trade, are managed by a custom-house, which was established here a short time after the Union. It was at first only a creek, belonging to the port of Barrowstowness. The port of Alloa not only comprehends the town of Alloa, but also the creeks of Clackmannan, Kennectpan, Kincardine, Cambus and Manor, on the north side of the river; Airth, Dunmore, or Elphinstone, and Fallow, on the south, together with the share of Stirling.—The ships and vessels belonging to the port, by the returns lately made, amount to 115; their tonnage to 7,341; for the navigation whereof 500 men are employed. The staple trade for these ships is coal. The greatest number of the vessels are employed in the coast trade. About 50,000 tons of coal are annually sent, from the port to places within the frith of Forth, and to parts in the east and north of Scotland. The export and import trade is also considerable; it is carried to and from the ports of Denmark, Norway, Germany,

make up the deficiency, that might have happened, from the falling off of the gambler trade.

The enlargement of the farms would probably have been given, as a principal reason for the diminution, if the 3 enumerations had not proved, that the country part of the parish at least was not decreased. The largest farm was let between the years 1784 and 1788; and the numbers in the country had increased in those few years 22 souls. The diminution is principally in the town of Alloa, which has indeed been most rapid and astonishing; and can only be accounted for, by the failure of the great distilleries in the neighbourhood, who purchased large quantities of malt made in this town; which business employed a considerable number of hands in carrying it on, who were suddenly thrown out of employment; and much about the same time, a cotton work was set up at Down, which is not above 10 or 12 miles to the westward of this parish; and the report, of their giving great encouragement, to the young as well as the old, probably induced many to emigrate from this parish, and thereby has occasioned a temporary decrease: But as the collieries, and other branches of trade, are in a very flourishing way, it is probable that a short time will replace the deficiency.

CARRHART's valuation is very small, his principal property lying in the parish of Clackmannan; but his house and pleasure grounds are in this parish, and he frequently resides among us. We are always much indebted to his Lordship, for his advice and assistance when in the country. Lord AZZA, residing always out of the parish, gives us only the benefit of a ready and cheerful concurrence, with every measure proposed by the residing heritors. All these gentlemen hold considerable property in other parishes. The valued rent is 7,492l. 19s. 2d. Scotch. The real rent is probably about 4,000l. Sterling.

Police.—The *good* of the place, and the administration of *justice*, are in the hands of his Majesty's justices of the peace, and the sheriff-depute. There is only one sheriff-depute for this and the neighbouring county of Stirling. He appoints his substitutes; and one constantly resides here, who keeps his courts in this town. The quarter sessions, and other meetings of form, either by the justices of the peace, or sheriff, are held in the county town of Clackmannan, about 2 miles distant. There is a baron bailie, named by the proprietor of the estate of Marr. He decides on petty offences, and debts not exceeding 40s.; and regulates the stents and cesses, and other matters of police within the town and barony.—An *admiral court* was formerly kept here, in virtue of a commission from the Lord Vice Admiral of Scotland. The jurisdiction of this court extended from the bridge of Stirling to Pettycur, near Kinghorn, on the north side of the Forth, and from Stirling Bridge to Higgin's Neuck on the south. For some time past, no deputation has been granted, and of course no court kept. The want of an admiral court has been complained of, as a *very material grievance*. For want of this, every little trifling dispute, which happens at the port, must be carried before the Admiralty.

Admiralty Court at Edinburgh, at a very considerable expence. Besides, a most serious injury seems likely to arise, from the shipmasters casting their ballast into the river, without any court to check them; which, in process of time, must interrupt the navigation, and hurt the public as well as individuals. It is thought, that an admiral court would speedily put a stop to this complaint.

Services, &c.—All kinds of personal services from tenants may be said to be abolished, as those on the estate of Tullibody are seldom or never exacted *. The farmers in the town are obliged to turn out, in case of any accident at the dam-head of Gartmorn, &c. This cannot well be looked on as a great hardship, as most of the property would be considerably affected by any inundation. The family of **MAXX** were found by the Court of Session, after a long litigation, to have a right to draw custom for goods passing through the town, as they were obliged to keep up the streets, &c.

Roads.—The statute labour for the roads, is, as in other places, under the direction of the justices of the peace. The cotter's labour is converted into money, and sometimes the farmer's carriages. The country, for some time past, has been amused with schemes for turnpike roads; and perhaps this has occasioned a remissness in the exaction of the statute work. Owing to this, and the many heavy carriages while the distilleries were flourishing, the roads are exceedingly bad. It is

* When Mr. **EASKINE** relieved his tenants of the thirlage, he intended to have done the same with the malkure of the malt, from the brewers in the barony of Alloa; but as that was in such a number of hands, and these continually changing, he found it impracticable. The brewers strongly litigated the point about 40 years ago. It was at length decided in favour of the proprietor.

is not doubted but that some reform, in a matter so interesting to the public, will soon take place.

Church, &c.—The church of Alloa was repaired and enlarged in 1680, by virtue of a commission from the archbishop of St. Andrews. Its length is 65 feet, exclusive of Mr. Erskine's aisle; and the breadth 30 feet, besides 12 feet of addition to the north. At the west end it has 2 rows of galleries. It is now too small and incommodious for the numerous inhabitants of this parish; for it is extremely crowded when there are 900 hearers, which is often the case. There have been many deliberations about building a new one, for upwards of 30 years past. To this the heritors are strongly encouraged, by a donation lately made of 1,200*l.* by Lady CHARLOTTE ERSKINE*; who also left 800*l.* Sterling, the interest of which is to be applied for an assistant minister, whose income altogether now exceeds 70*l.* per annum.—The present church has a good appearance to the south. The front is of hewn stone. There is a statue in a niche of St. MUNGO,

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holding

* This sum her Ladyship, (who was a daughter of CHARLES Earl of HOPETON, and widow of THOMAS Lord ERSKINE, son of the last EARL of MAR), generously bequeathed for seats to the poor, and to such as had no legal rights to any. The latter, however, were to pay a moderate rent for them; part of which sum was to go towards augmenting the salary of the assistant minister. Many years ago, an assistant minister was established here, by a donation from Mr. JONESTONE, a merchant in Alloa, who left some houses in the town, the rent of which, with the interest of 600*l.*, that he had in the hands of a company of merchants in Glasgow, to be applied for the maintenance of an assistant minister. The company was dissolved many years ago; and the 600*l.* was allowed to remain in the hands of one of the partners, who had a good land estate, but who unfortunately became bankrupt some years afterwards, and the whole was lost, and nothing left for the assistant minister, but the rents of the houses. This loss was replaced by the worthy Lady CHARLOTTE ERSKINE.

the neighbouring parishes, and by such a number of hands, as makes the collection of it both very disagreeable and difficult. Mr. Erskine has relieved both the minister and tenants of the greatest part of the vicarage on his estate. The glebe is about 11 Scotch acres, (very nearly equal to 14 English), of fertile ground. Formerly it was over-run with weeds; but, by laying it down in grass, and pasturing, it now yields fine crops. The greatest part of the glebe lies close to the town, and the remainder very near it. The manse, which was repaired in 1776, is beautifully situated at the head of John's Street, and has a garden adjoining of about half an acre.—By the Earl of Marr's forfeiture in 1715, the Crown is patron.—There is an Antiburgher and a Burgher meeting-house in the town, both well attended, and the people are much improved in the civilities of life. There is likewise a chapel of the Scotch Episcopal church. Their number is small; but they have been joined by several of the glass-house work people, whose

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education

Scotch, for communion elements, is continued: and 71l. 3s. 2d. Scotch, vicarage, paid as *use and wont*. The additional 2 chalders may seem a small augmentation for so large a parish; but the conversion of the money into grain makes it considerable, and gives a security for the stipend's rising with the other necessities of life.

At the Reformation, the stipends of the Protestant clergy were fixed, to be paid at the rate of so many chalders of victual, (the general term in Scotland for all kinds of grain), part of which was paid in kind, and part in money, converting the chalder, in the rich counties, at 100l. Scotch the chalder, and at 80l. Scotch in the less fertile ones. It is greatly to be regretted, that the whole stipend was not paid in victual; as by that means the value of them would have kept pretty nearly an equal pace with the value of estates. This method should now be absolutely fixed; or if, from local situations, it should be very inconvenient to the clergy, to receive the whole in victual, one third might be converted into money; and the value of the bolls should be estimated by an average of 25 years; and at the end of the 25 years, a new conversion might be taken; but no alteration should be made, unless the price of victual (*i.e.* the medium price of barley and malt), differed from the former one 6d. pence per boll.

education leads them to prefer that form of worship. The five clergymen, who are in town, live in the greatest harmony and good intercourse with one another †.

Schools and Donations.—There is a numerous and flourishing school, conducted by a *rector* and *doctor*, (i. e. a master and usher), both of whom have very good apartments. The rector takes boarders, and gives them every private assistance. The pious Lady CHARLOTTE ERSKINE left 300*l.* Sterling for educating poor children, and having them catechised on Sunday evenings; which, according to the direction of Mr. ERSKINE, to whose care it was committed, has been begun, and promises great success, under the direction of the doctor, who assembles them, with all who choose to attend on the Sunday evenings. This meeting the ministers occasionally attend, and mark the progress of the young, when the most diligent are rewarded with little books. Her Ladyship likewise bequeathed 400*l.* towards assisting the schools of the colliery. The charitable donations of this lady ought not to be omitted in this place, though they are deeply engraven in the hearts of many. Children of all sects have access to the benefit of these schools. There are likewise several private schools, where some of the younger and poorer scholars are educated. In the village of Tullibody, there is a numerous school, patronized by General ABERCROMBY. In the colliery there are two schools, to accommodate what are called *the Upper and Lower Works*, i. e. the *Collyland* and *Alloa*. All these schools are well attended, and promise much public benefit.

Mineral

I

† Dr. JAMES FORDYCE, author of the *Sermons to Young Women*, was last minister of this parish. He was admitted in October 1753, and went to London in 1760, when he was succeeded by the present incumbent.

Mineral Waters and Fossils.—There are many springs, strongly impregnated with steel. One of them is within the house of Alloa; but it is not known that any of them have been sufficiently analysed, to speak of their effects. There are various quarries in the parish; some very indifferent, a few very good. One of them has been wrought upwards of 100 years. It is a remarkably good stone in every particular, excepting the colour, which is a faint red; but it endures all kinds of fatigue. A very great quantity has been made use of, although it lies very deep in the earth, and of course is expensive to work. There is another quarry on the east side of the parish, of a good quality, and uncommonly white. There are seams of coal underneath each of these quarries. There is a field of yellow clay, or ochre, excellently adapted for fine bricks. It sometimes supplies the place of lime on the outside of houses; but its various qualities have not yet been ascertained.

Wild Animals.—The wild animals are the same as are common to all the Low Country: hares, rabbits, foxes, badgers, otters, *foumarts*, or polecats, and *foats*, or ermines. These last are very rare. There are no wild cats. The birds most numerous are partridges. Some few quails and land rails are sometimes seen in autumn; but they are abundant in the breeding season. The whistling or grey plovers alight sometimes on the high grounds in spring, and likewise the dotterels, both on their way to the Ochils. The bittern is become very scarce. Curlews frequent the side of the Forth. There are few herons that breed here. There are thrushes, blackbirds, woodlarks, bull finches, and all the finch tribe; sky larks, buntings, yellowhammers, and waterwagtails, white and yellow; in summer, stone-chatters, and various kinds of swallows; in winter, the several kinds of fieldfares, woodcocks and snipes, and sometimes

times snow birds. The lapwing, or green plover, breeds on the high grounds; but as cultivation advances, their numbers visibly decrease. The hoody, or Royston crow, breeds here. Jackdaws, crows, magpies and ravens are often seen, but do not breed. There are also hawks, kings-fishers, sandlarks, water crows, and some few of the long eared bats, owls and screech owls.

Antiquities.—About a mile east of the town, there is a large upright stone, 7 feet 4 inches above the surface of the ground. It is three feet broad, and thought to be very deep in the earth. The old people use to speak of the figure of a man on horseback, which they had seen on it. If any thing of that kind, or letters (as it is said), have been formerly observed, they are now totally effaced*.

Ancient Families and Eminent Persons.—There are no families of any consequence now existing, which were originally of this parish. The branch of the ABERCROMBIES, which settled at Tullibody towards the end of last century, are descended from the family of Birkenboig in Banff-shire, where it has been long established.

The Lords CATHCART only made this the seat of their residence, upon parting with the great estate and beautiful place of Auchincruive, which they possessed for ages in Ayr-shire. Their

* When the adjacent farm was enclosing, upwards of 20 years ago, a ditch was made close to the stone, when many human bones were discovered; which proves, that a battle or skirmish had some time or other taken place near that spot; and probably some man of eminence was buried hard by, as it was a common practice of the Picts on such occasions. There are two stones resembling this one, in the neighbouring parish of Alva, at no great distance from the church, but not close to one another. They are both near the foot of the Ochils.

Their possessions in this, and the adjoining parishes, descended to the late Lord Cathcart from his grandmother Lady SHAW; whose husband had purchased them, in the beginning of this century, at a judicial sale, from the Bruces of Clackmannan.

Neither can the ERSKINES be said to be originally of this parish, although they got the lands, which they are now possessed of, in the reign of King Robert Bruce. They were originally settled in Renfrewshire. They succeeded by a female, in 1461, to the earldom of Marr; but it was not until the year 1561 that they got possession of it. It was at that time declared in parliament, that, in justice, the earldom of Marr belonged to JOHN LORD ERSKINE, who, in the year 1571, was elected regent of Scotland, on the death of the Earl of Lennox. How honourably he filled that troublesome station, is recorded by all our historians*. Unfortunately he was cut off by a sudden death. The famous GEORGE BUCHANAN has celebrated his virtues in an elegant epitaph.

These matters, however, belong rather to *history* than to a *statistical account*; but it would be improper to omit mentioning the last EARL of MARR, who had a great turn for embellishing the country. LORD HADINGTON, in his *Treatise*

ON

*The family of ERSKINE have often been honoured with having their infant sovereigns intrusted to their care, (particularly King JAMES V. the unfortunate QUEEN MARY, JAMES VI. and his son Prince HENRY), which sacred trust they most faithfully discharged. They have some curious papers relative to those transactions.—The regent's son was brought up with King James VI. He was appointed ambassador to England a short time before Elizabeth's death. The ambassador's present is still preserved in the family: It is a bason and ewer, remarkable for its workmanship, and the elegance of its shape. Lord Marr, in his embassy, is supposed to have contributed towards the peaceable accession of King James to the throne of England. The Duke of SULLY mentions him in his memoirs, and calls him his friend. On the Duke's return to France, the famous HENRY IV. wrote a letter to Lord Marr, which is still preserved in the archives of the family.

which takes notice of the improvements of the metropolis, that have been since carried into execution, and which deserves to be more generally known.

The

" Potter-Row, and from thence to Bristo Street, and by the back of the wall
" at Herriot's Hospital, there are fine situations for houses and gardens. There
" would be fine avenues to the town, and outlets from it for airing, walking,
" &c. &c. by these bridges; and Edinburgh, from being a bad incommodious
" situation, would become a very beneficial and convenient one: And, to make
" it still more so, a branch of that river, called the Water of Leith, might, it is
" thought, be brought from somewhere about the Colt Bridge, to fill and run
" through the North Loch, which would be of great advantage to the conveni-
" ence, beauty, cleanliness and healthfulness of the town.

" The making a canal betwixt the rivers of Forth and Clyde would be a
" great improvement to Scotland, as well as of great service to the trade of the
" whole island, especially the India trade, by saving a dangerous long passage
" round Britain, since, by that canal the west and east sea would be joined.
" The way for leading of this canal is from near Glasgow, by Kilfryth, to the
" mouth of the river Carron below Falkirk. It is practicable, as Mr. Adair,
" Mr. Smith, Mr. McGill, and Mr. Sorocold judged, who travelled twice over
" the ground, with a view to this work. From the hills of Campsie, and the
" river Carron they thought there would be water sufficient got for filling the
" canal; and that, by the assistance of several sluices near to Glasgow and some
" in other parts, the canal would be made practicable for flat bottomed boats of
" a very considerable burden. They computed that 30,000*l.* Sterling might do
" the work; but, should it cost the double, it would be well bestowed, and be
" soon repaid by the profit arising from the canal."

Having said so much of this unfortunate nobleman, it is no more than justice to the inhabitants of this and the neighbouring parishes, to mention their behaviour to him during his exile, while the estate continued under the direction of the commissioners of the forfeited estates. They contributed considerably towards assisting him under his misfortunes. Not should an instance of gratitude pass unnoticed: The Earl, whose taste for architecture was generally known, introduced the celebrated Mr. Gibbs into business, the beginning of this century. Mr. Gibbs dying without children, left the greatest part of the fortune he had acquired to Lord Easing, the son of his first patron.

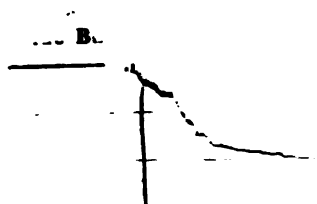
The following is a copy of the complimentary poem (above mentioned), wrote by George Buchanan upon JOHN EARL of MARR, who was regent of Scotland, during the minority of King JAMES VI.

JOANNI ARESKINO, Comiti MARRLE, SCOTORUM PRÆBEC.

Si quis ARESKINUM memoret; per bella ferocem,
 Pace gravem nulli, tempore utroque pium;
 Si quis opes sine fastu, animum sine fraude, carentem
 Rebus in ambiguis suspicione fidem;
 Si quod ob has dotes, sævis jactata procellis
 Fugit in illius patria fessa sinum;
 Vera quidem memoret, sed non & propria: laudes
 Qui pariter petet has unus & alter erit.
 Illud ei proprium est, longo quod in ordine vitæ
 Nil odium aut livor quod reprehendat habet.



DEC 24 1914



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